FROM LAKE STATION TO EAST GARY

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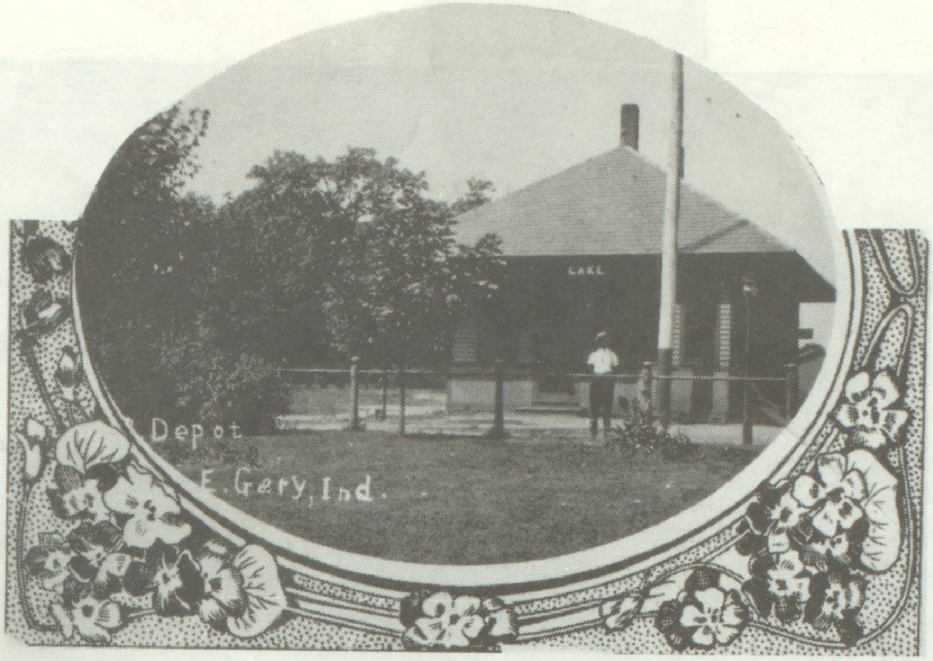

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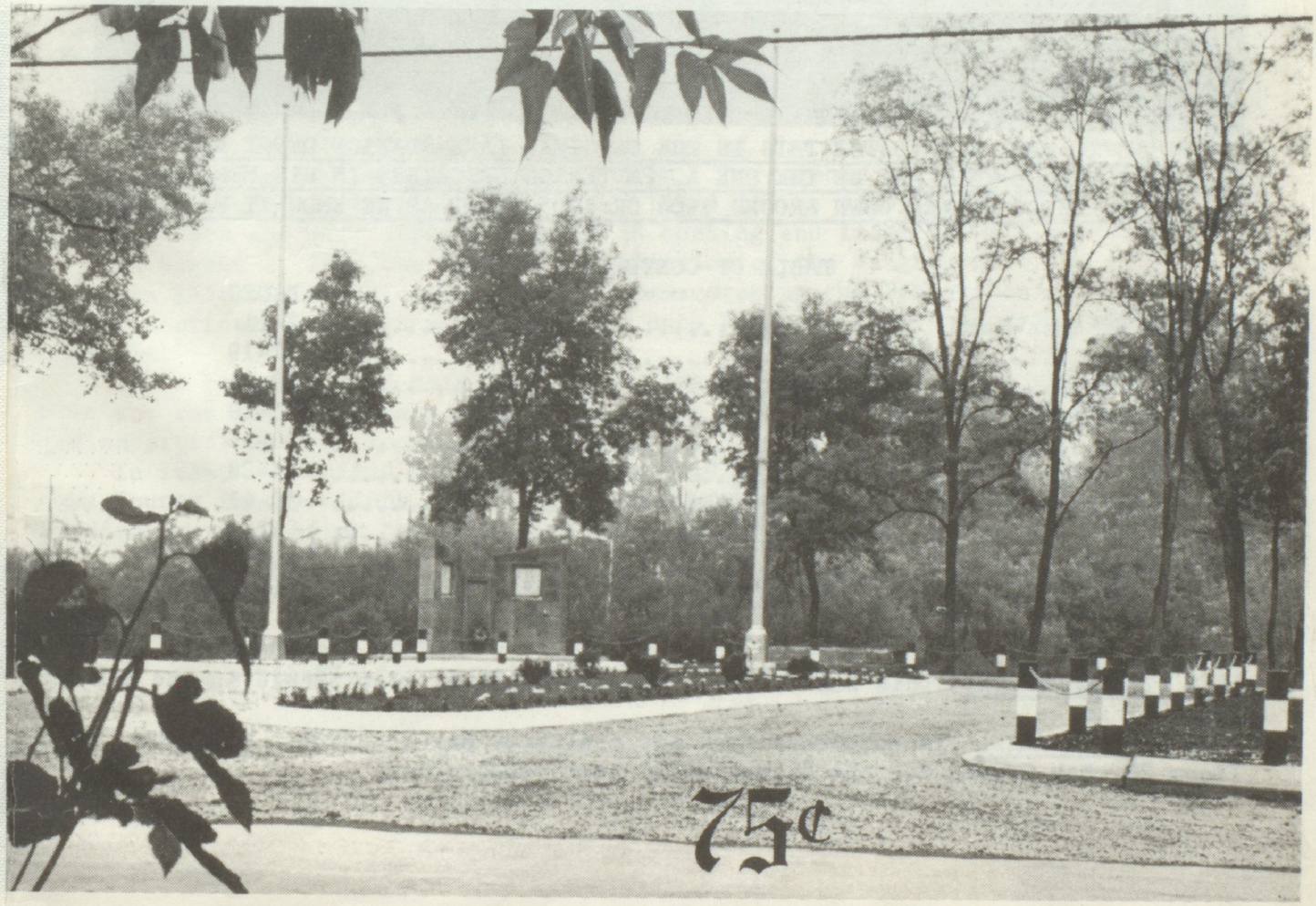

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ACCORDING TO MRS. ELNA PAPKA THIS IS THE ORIGINAL LAKE STATION DEPOT AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE-THIS MAY BE THE ONE A. PATTERSON DESCRIBES IN HIS MEMOIRS-THE ENTIRE DEPOT BURNED DOWN AROUND 1904 OR 1905-DEPOT AS WE KNOW IT WAS THEN BUILT

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COVER:

LAKE STATION DEPOT: This was the Lake Station Depot as most people in the city remember it.

INDEPENDENCE PARK: Independence Park was dedicated May 31, 1976. Built by Troop 20, Boy Scouts for the bicentennial year celebration.

LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

HISTORY OF EAST GARY

"Who could ask for a better location to reside in than within the limits of East Gary with the cool and shaded woods, and flowing stream..."(1) asked the East Gary Tribune in 1909. Since its discovery, this area has been a desirable place to many people.

In the year 1800, Indiana became a territory and in 1816 was admitted to the Union as a State; in 1840 Fort Dearborn (now Chicago) was a trading post for corn raised by Pottawatomies, and also for fur from the Calumet and Kankakee regions.

By the treaty of the United States with the Pottawatomies in 1828, a strip of land 10 miles in width was acquired along the northern border of Indiana. This was the first land purchased from the Indians in Lake County. By the treaty of 1832 the remainder of the county was acquired. Up to that time there were no white people in this region, excepting fur traders and perchance some hunters, trappers and the soldiers of Fort Dearborn. (1)

At the time of the first settlement in 1833, and for sometime thereafter, if you wished to mail a letter, buy a pound of coffee, or any other small article for the house, you had to drive to Michigan City, twenty-five miles away, or to Chicago forty-five miles away, according to Darius Blake in his reminiscences of early days in Lake and Porter Counties. (2) Mr. Blake also recalled that in those days there was a little Indian Village at the place now called Garyton, and there was also another Indian town or village on a high hill on the east side of what was afterwards known as Lake Station, now East Gary, between the present sub-station of the Electric Railroad and the present town hall. In those early days it was nothing to see one-hundred Indians a day. The Indians were of the Pottawatomie Tribe, and Jacob Blake learned to speak the Pottawatomie language fluently and it was a great help to him. He and they became friendly and became good neighbors. No white man was ever injured by an Indian in that locality. There was an Indian cemetery east of Lake Station at the west end of the marsh along the present highway, leading eastward from Lake Station. I remember seeing Indians in that neighborhood as late as 1869. They lived in the vicinity of Liverpool and Glen Park and were engaged largely in hunting and trapping wild animals. (2)

On August 2, 1969, the Indiana organization of the Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated a marker commemorating the Pottawatomi Trail. This historical marker is placed on land once known as the Papka Farm, along Route 51.

It is believed that this particular site for the marker was a trading post for the Indians. Many arrowheads, coins, pottery, tomahawks and other Indian artifacts were found in this spot.

In 1834, the United States surveyors laid out much of the lands in Lake County into sections, the ranges and township lines having been previously run. After the surveyors came the claim seekers.

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool was laid out by John O. Davis and Henry Frederickson of Philadelphia and John B. Chapman, a Western man. They bought an Indian "float" and proceded to plan a city. At that time the Calumet and Deep Rivers were navigable for vessels of good size up to this point. Both have been

obstructed since, especially the Calumet, by the draining of Cady Marsh which has caused much sand to be filled into its channel. This was also at that time an important road over which most of the emigrants for the Northwest passed. A ferry boat was placed on the Calumet at this point in 1834 and a hotel opened in 1835. (3)

In 1836, George Earle, with his wife and son arrived, having traveled the Detroit-Chicago Trail from Philadelphia. Mr. Earle bought the Liverpool town-site and much surrounding land. (2)

George Earle was born in Falmouth, Cornwall, England, February 5, 1807, the fourth of thirteen children in the family. He married Mary Devonshire of Falmouth on April 19, 1832, in St. Clements Dane Church in London. He was an architect and builder, practising his trade in Falmouth and later in London. He came to Philadelphia in the United States in 1835 to fulfill a contract to build brick houses, bringing the brick with him from England. (4)

In 1837, a stage route was established between Michigan City and Joliet which passed through Liverpool. Stores and hotels were built and excitement ran high as lots grew in value. Through the efforts of Mr. Earle, Liverpool was selected as the county seat. (2) But the location of the county seat at Liverpool was not at all satisfactory to the citizens of the central and southern portions of the county. So great was the hostility to the location of the county seat at Liverpool, not merely because the location was at one end of the county, but because the citizens were generally satisfied that some sort of sharp work had induced the Locating Commissioners to select Liverpool, that the county officers were publicly urged not to go to that town until the State Legislature had been petitioned for a re-location. Under the law, the county officers were not compelled to remove to Liverpool until suitable buildings for their occupancy had been erected. The proprietors of Liverpool began to erect a frame court house, but the building was never quite finished. (3) In 1840 a new committee appointed by the legislature located the county seat at Crown Point (then called Lake Court House).

According to Timothy Ball's History of Lake County, this courthouse at Liverpool, which had never been entirely finished, was sold and moved on a scow down Deep and Little Calumet Rivers to Blue Island, Illinois, for use as a hotel or tavern. Some persons dispute the story of the removal of the court house. Some say the building stood on the north side of the stream, although the Public Square designated upon the plat was located south of the river. According to the present best available testimony it was located north of the river near or at the present site of Camp 133. (2) Arthur Patterson asserted in his written memories that he and his friends chased rabbits from under the foundation of the Courthouse in the 1870's. (2)

LAKE STATION: In the year 1851, the Michigan Central Railroad was completed through the Northern part of Lake County, commonly called the Calumet Region. The railroad closely followed the old Indian Trail aiming to hit the points that looked promising for a "Town Site" that would prove a drawing card for the company. It so happened that on the Northeastern quarter of Section Seventeen (17), Township Thirty-six (36), Range Seven (7), the Indians had a terminal point from which two trails lead to Chicago, one along the Calumet Region, the other Westerly through Liverpool and Joliet to Chicago. George Earle

and his family, from the east, were located near a Fur Trading point at Liverpool. George Earle was quite a land owner at the Lake Station location and observing this Indian terminal point situated on the new railroad and Stage Line realized its potential. On April 1, 1852 he platted out and recorded the town site of Lake Station.

The Michigan Central people were not slow to take a chance and at once erected a large depot in the eastern part of which was the Freight, Express and Telegraph offices and the balance of which was a depot and eating house. South of the depot was the company house which was built for the depot caretaker.

Edward Saunders observing the need of a large hotel built the Audubon. The Michigan Central built two plank walks from the depot to the hotel.

In 1854, the Joliet and Northern Indiana Railroad was built to Joliet. Thus for a number of years while the Lake Shore, the Michigan Central and the Joliet and Northern Indiana Railroads had the transportation field in Northern Lake County, Old Lake Station held the name of being the most important shipping point in Lake County.

The "outlook" in Lake Station was good and the town began to grow. Many new stores were built. On October 21, 1851, a Railroad Post Office was established, with Edwan Saunders as first postmaster. It was around this time that George Pullman tried to procure land in Lake Station to build the Pullman Palace Car Company, but failing to agree on a price with the land owners moved his business further west.

The growth of Lake Station was slowed by the building of other railroads and other stations in this area. The beginning of the end came in the 1880's when a new postal clerk induced the postmasters along the line to have the postal run leave Joliet instead of Lake Station. This was done and lasted about a year before it was discovered. All mail connections had been overlooked and lost by this change and Lake Station lost its Railroad Post Office. Lake Station declined until it had only one Merchandise store, one Saloon, one hotel, the Audubon; and one church, the Protestant. The Old Catholic Church was so rotted away that it was torn down. (5)

The outlook for Lake Station became brighter when in 1906 U.S. Steel Corporation began platting and building the city of Gary. William Earle, now owner of the property saw the growth of Gary and thought of a suburb outside of the city, a community that might become the home for some of the officers, department heads, executives, clerical and professional workers of steel and other industries. Thus William Earle founded and platted the new suburb of East Gary on May 5, 1908. The community included the site of Lake Station and part of the site of Old Liverpool. In all it contained 6,542.92 acres. (6)

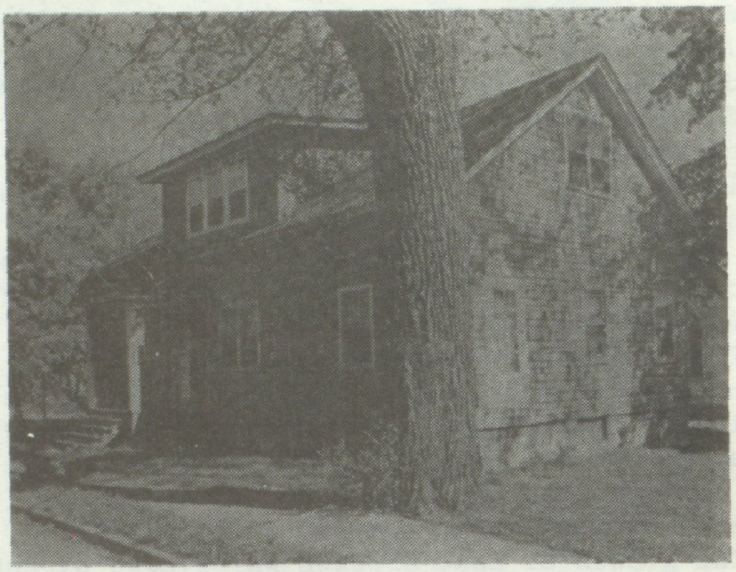
THE AUDUBON HOTEL

There were only fifty-one (51) votes cast in the first election for town board members. The names of the first town officials are as follows: Charles

Seydel, President; Michael Reich, Trustee; William Reich, Trustee; Samuel Blaemire, Clerk; Conrad Fabian, Treasurer; Sylvester A. Smith, Marshal; John R. Knight, Engineer; Franklin S. Fetterer, Attorney; and John Burke, Justice of the Peace.

The first meeting of the town board took place in the Mettleman home. This building still stands and is located just north of the railroad tracks on Ripley Street. After this the town hall was moved to a small wooden shack just west of Ripley Street on Central Avenue. This building had originally been a butcher shop. In 1911 a new town hall was built to house the fire department and jail on the first floor and town offices above. The new building was dedicated May 18, 1912.

The lot for the town hall was a gift to the town from the late Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Peterson.



METTLEMAN HOME

EAST GARY: Today's visitor to the city of East Gary finds few reminders of its early history.

Gone is the train depot which was the backbone for the formation of Lake Station, which is now East Gary.

Gone also is the Michigan City Railroad "Pump House" which was located down by the river behind St. Francis Church. This area has all been filled in and no trace of the pump house remains. The pump house supplied water for steam engines at the tracks near the depot where they stopped. The water line ran from the pump house through the alley between Wallins Hardware and Dr. Bessler's office to the trains. Later the track pans were built and enginas scooped up the water as they went along, without stopping. The track pans have also been removed since the advent of deisels.

EAST GARY TOWN HALL

Several older homes do still exist in the city and one building still in use is the old East Gary School house located at 2480 Putnam, accross from St. Francis Church. This building was built in the late eighteen hundreds and was used as a school until 1914.

Probably the most ancient landmark in town was the Audubon Hotel. Built in 1852 the Hotel was still in existance as late as 1961, when it was torn down. Legend has it that Abraham Lincoln once spent the night in the hotel, ate and

gave a speech there. He had come by stagecoach to Lake Station to take a train to Detroit.

No factual records exist to verify the Lincoln story but the late Philip Schneider and Mrs. Lillian Mellord used to claim that it was fact. Arthur E. Patterson a venerable pioneer of the area, who died in 1945, declared that it was so. He was called the historian of the area for many years.

Another building still in existence is the first building constructed for the purpose of being the city's Post Office. This building is located at 2463 Pike Street and was first opened in September of 1936. Gordon Faupel was postmaster at this time and was responsible for having the building constructed.

Around 1916, the Post Office was in the building which had been used as the old town hall. After this the post office was located in a general store or a person's home until Mr. Faupel built his building.

PICTURE OF SECOND TOWN BOARD-ELECTED 1910
L-R, T.STEARNS, C. FABIAN, C. SEYDEL, J.PAPKA, H.T.QUINNELL

The building on Pike Street served as the post office until August of 1956 when a new building was built at 2901 Central Avenue. The new post office was built, according to postal specifications, by Al Ganz Realty Company and is leased by the U.S. Postal Service. East Gary's Post Office handles twelve thousand pieces of mail on an average day and has 4,585 delivery service areas in the city. The post office employs nine full time carriers, three part time carriers, two full time clerks, two part time clerks, one Foreman of Operations and one Manager of Postal Branch Operations, Mr. John Dunda.

NEW TOWN HALL

The old post office building has been purchased by Mr. and Mrs. William Sonntag who plan to turn it into a historical museum in the near future.

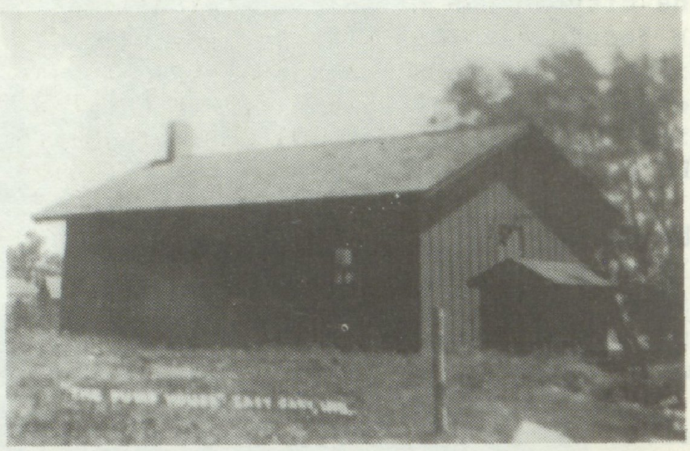
As well as being the post office, a wing of the building on Pike Street also served as the city's library.

A library was first founded in East Gary in 1914, as part of an extention service in Hobart Township. Books were placed in the school, and a small collection for adults was placed in the post office. Later the post office became quarters for a regular branch,

with the postmistress, Mrs. Jay Lewis, in charge. In 1918, Miss Helen Patterson became librarian, retaining the post for twenty-four years, retiring December 1, 1942.

In 1937, the East Gary Branch was moved to new quarters in one wing of the new post office building built by Postmaster Gordon Faupel on Pike Street. By 1942, due to a need for more space for the postal facility and financial conditions, it was necessary for the library to look for another location. A building at Central and Parke Street was rented. Although it was far from being attractive or adequate it was the only space available.

East Gary's Library had two more homes, one being a floor of the Fraternal Order of Eagles building at 3612 Central Avenue, before building its own facility at 2400 Central Avenue. The new building was dedicated February 25, 1962. It is only through the hard work of East Gary citizens and civic groups that East Gary has its own library today.

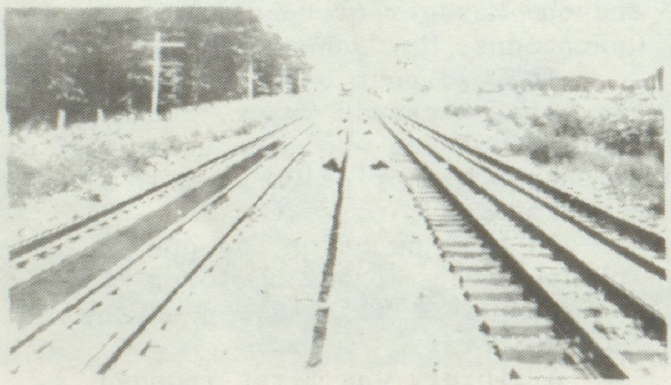


EAST GARY PUMP HOUSE

Growth continued in East Gary and, in November of 1961, the idea of becoming a fifth class city was presented to the public. One thousand forty-two voted to become a city, nine hundred thirty-two voted against and two thousand two hundred citizens did not vote. East Gary became a city January 1, 1964.

On July 18, 1963, bids were taken for a new city hall and the successful bidder for general construction was Superior Construction Company.

The new building contains a hundred seat auditorium, a conference room, a reception room, city attorney and city judges room, mayor's office, inspectors and engineers room, clerk-treasurer's office, a private office and a file room.



TRACK PANS

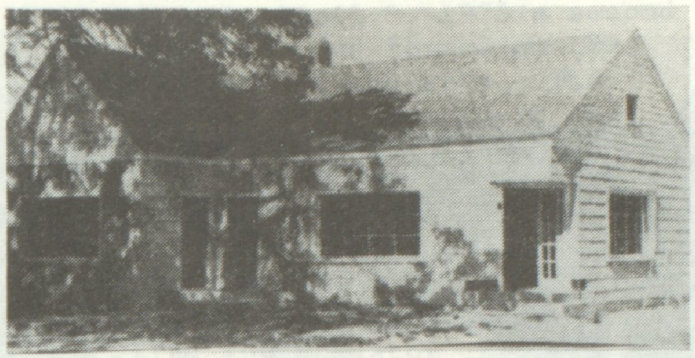
The new building was dedicated December 27, 1963 and on January 1, 1964 East Gary's first city administration was sworn in.

East Gary's first mayor was Leo Meister, the new city clerk-treasurer was Betty Sonntag. Councilmen were Dale Bonner, Louis Cloyd Jr., Harold Young, Walter Davis, and Jim Kinsey. The city attorney, Edward L. Burke was sworn in next, followed by the city engineer, Paul Wagner, the chief of police, Harold LaSage, and the police officers, namely Joseph Aloia, Harold O'Rourke, Charles Gilmore, Gerald Gruett and Charles Burton. The fire chief

was George Clark and city judge was John Hovanec.

Also located beside the city hall are the Police Department, the Fire Department, and the Public Utilities Department.

POLICE: Adjacent to city hall to the east is the Police Department.



FIRST POST OFFICE BUILDING ON PIKE STREET

East Gary's first police protection was under the marshal system of law. In 1908 Sylvester W. Smith was the marshal, his salary was $15.00 per month. At this time there was no jail so Marshal Smith was paid $1.50 a month for the use of his private building for a lock-up. The motor vehicle speed at this time was 8 M.P.H.

From 1909 until 1912, Marshal Smith was not in office. It was during this time that the marshal's salary rose to $600.00 per year. Sylvester Smith became marshal again in 1912 and retained the office at least until 1917.

In 1916, Marshall Smith's salary was raised to $720.00 per year and Ordinance #64 established the "Duties of the Marshall" these being; keep the town hall clean, keep crosswalks free of ice, mud, and snow, and change the cities electric bulbs. Prior to the introduction of electricity in 1915 the marshal had to light the gas lamps and maintain them. The marshal also was not allowed in any bar or saloon except on official business.

COMPANY HOUSE AND CARETAKERS MR. & MRS. JAY LEWIS

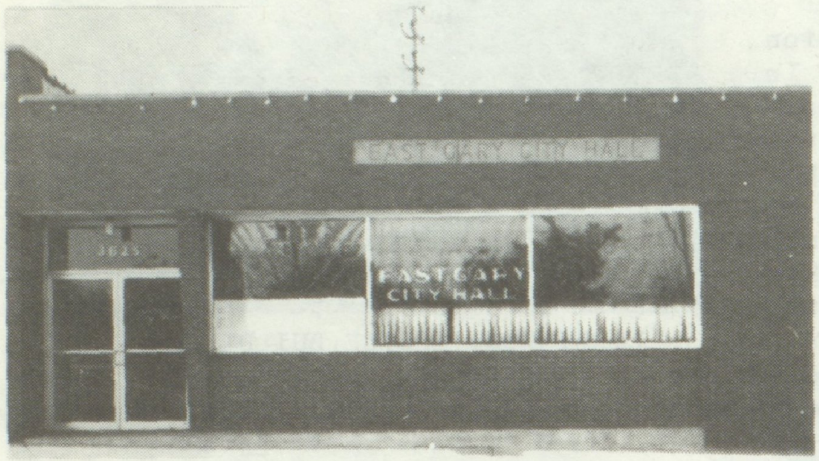
Ordinance #71 passed in 1916 finally allowed the marshal to appoint a deputy for the west end of town. The deputy would have to work for free. Another ordinance, passed in 1917, allowed another deputy to be appointed for the 4th Ward, he would also work for free.

Today East Gary has an eighteen man police force. This includes ten patrolmen, three patrol sargents, three detectives, one police technician, and one chief of police, Harold LaSage.

East Gary's Police Department has thirteen marked police cars and five unmarked police units. Each officer is assigned his own squad car and uses it twenty-four hours a day. Every officer is also on call twenty-four hours a day. This system of operation gives East Gary more thorough police protection.

A high caliber of men serves on East Gary's Police force and several officers have college degrees; also more than half of the other officers have some college credits.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Next to the police department, to the east, is the East Gary Fire Department. East Gary Volunteer Fire Department was formed in 1918 by a group of civic minded citizens. The first fire chief was Alex Vizena. After operating for a year with no formal rules and regulations, on November 14, 1919, the first regular business meeting was held. John Culbertson was elected President, Ira Cole Vice-President, W. Shaver Secretary, Phil Schneider Treasurer, and Ray Zuvers Assistant Fire Chief.



EAST GARY CITY HALL

The first fire truck was a two wheel cart with a tank on it which was operated by chemicals and pulled by man-power. The first motorized equipment was a Model T Ford with three forty gallon tanks using soda acid for pressure, it was obtained in 1920. The first new fire engine the department had was a 1937 Seagrave that pumped 750 gallons of water per minute. The fire engine is now being restored by the fire department and is still capable of pumping it's rated capacity.

Since it's inception the fire department had operated out of the old town hall, but in the early 1950's the department had grown to a size that made operation out of the old station impractical. There was one small problem, the Town Board had no money to build a new fire station. Undaunted by such a small problem, the fire department enlisted the help of the police department and together the two organizations embarked on the project of building a joint fire and police department just east of the old town hall. They had carnivals and dances to raise funds, they invited contributions from the citizens

East Gary's First City Administration 1964

in the way of money, materials and labor, and on May 24, 1958 the $80,000 station was dedicated. At the dedication ceremony, Fire Chief George Clark oficially turned the building over to the town.

MARSHAL AND DEPUTIES

On April 9, 1975 a second battalion was formed on the west end of the city. The present fire department that is headed by Fire Chief Dominic Bonomo consists of seventy men, one 1250 gpm pumper, two 750 gpm pumpers, one 500 gpm pumper, one fully equiped rescue truck, one inhalator car, one fire investigator car, and three surplus jeeps that were converted into brush buggies by the firemen. By using the surplus jeeps and doing all modifications necessary to convert them into fire fighting pieces of equipment, the firemen saved the city well over $20,000.

Future plans for the department include the building of a permanent station for Battalion Two, expansion of the main fire station, a new larger rescue truck to hold the increasing number of tools needed to perform proper rescues, four new pumpers and a new base radio station to give better reception in all parts of the city.

EAST GARY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES: The building to the west of the city hall contains the city's public utilities offices.

In March of 1937, the company was formed and water was sold for the first time in East Gary.

Sewer lines were first installed in 1926 in the west side of what was then the town of East Gary. Since then lines have been installed periodically throughout the city until a system was completed.

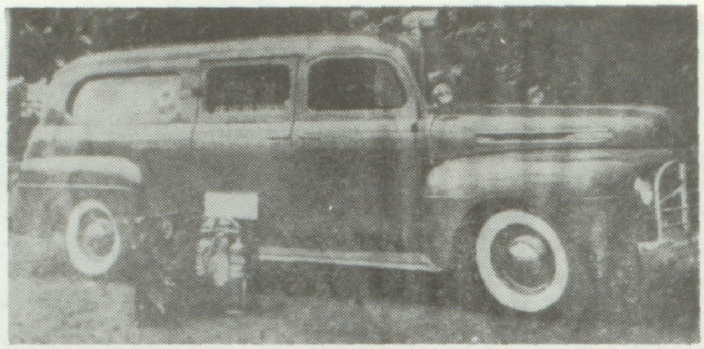
There are now approximately seventy-five to one hundred miles of sewer lines in East Gary.

AN EARLY MOTORIZED FIRE VEHICLE NEXT TO OLD TOWN HALL

In the past the water and sewer bills were sent separatly. This was done until around 1969 when the two departments combined as they are today. There are now 3,500 water and sewer customers in the city. George Helmecy is East Gary's Superintendent of Public Utilities.

Plans for the future include the installation of storm sewers throughout some areas of the city and the installation of a complete sewer system in the newest section of the city.

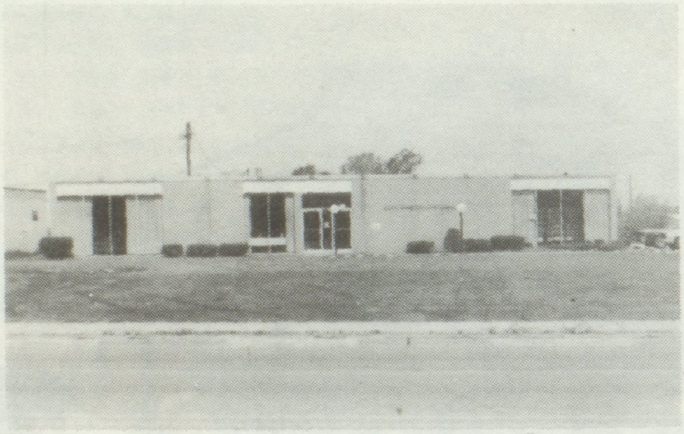
EAST GARY PARK BOARD: East Gary's Park Board was organized relatively recently. An actual park board was not formed until 1970. Up until this time a park committee did the work of the park board. The East Gary Park Board was organized according to the rules of the Park and Recreation Law of 1965. The board consists of two Republican members and two Democratic members who are appointed by the mayor.



AN AMBULANCE IN 1949
CALLED EAST GARY'S MERCY WAGON

There are nine parks in East Gary, approximately 100 acres. The largest developed park in the city is Riverview Park. This park is twenty acres in size and has a softball field, a baseball diamond and two swimming pools. The swimming pools included are one wading pool and one heated olympic size swimming pool. A basket room and shower facilities are included. The building of the pool was begun in 1973 and completed in 1974.

Columbus Park on the west end of the city is the second largest developed park in the city. Installation of a new softball field has just been completed in this park.



EAST GARY LIBRARY

Grand Boulevard Lake is another twenty acre park. Although the park is undeveloped, the lake is used by many people in the city for fishing.

The largest area owned by the park department, to be developed as a park, is north of the railroad tracks by the Senior Little League field. Twenty-seven acres of land have been purchased. The park board intends to begin development of the park by installing tennis courts this summer if the funds are available.

Up until 1972 annexation was just a word in East Gary, but in that year annexation became a reality when East Gary annexed the Liverpool-Oregon and Camp 133 areas.

The Liverpool area runs south to US 6, east to and including River Forest High School, west to I-65 and north to Deep River.

The Camp Area runs west to I-65, south to the river and borders on the north and east by Central Avenue, the boundry of East Gary.

Also included is the area bounded on the west and north by the New Chicago town limits which includes the Hobart Airport and excludes the homes fronting on the west side of Lake Park Avenue and Krill's Aircraft Sales.

PRESENT ADMINISTRATION-FROM L TO R-A. HOUSE, C. TABOR, J. KINSEY, V. KADISH, MAYOR CARL JACOBS, JUDGE HOVANEC, J. STEVENS, M. MOORE, F. TATONE, AND BETTY SONNTAG

Most of Viking Village Subdivision and Meister Elementary School is excluded. The Nob Hill area is also excluded. (7)

This annexation increased East Gary's population from ten to fifteen thousand and made East Gary a fourth class city.

With the annexation came an increase in the number of city council members. Two new councilmen, Ann House and John Miranda, were appointed to represent the newly annexed area.

This changed the number of councilmen from five to seven.

On January 1, 1976 the present city administration was sworn in. East Gary's mayor is Carl Jacobs, the clerk-treasurer is Betty Sonntag. Councilmen at large are Victor Kadish and Frank Tatone. Other councilmen are 1st District, Meryln Moore, 2nd District, Joe R. Stevens, 3rd District, Albert Kinsey, 4th District, Clifford Tabor and 5th District, Ann House. The city's attorney is Walter J. Alvarez, the city engineer is Rowland Fabian and city judge is John Hovanec.

Although the government is the center of most of the city's development the schools, community organizations, churches and business all combine to make East Gary a successful city.

A short history of each of these important parts of the community follows.

SCHOOLS

The first schoolhouse in East Gary goes back to before 1878. In 1882, it was the building known as "The Church" or the Methodist Church and was located across from where the old Catholic church was and where the present Catholic church now stands. (3)

Albert Patterson in his memoirs describes the first school. He calls it the Little School House of Old Lake Station. The building was a one story frame about 16 by 28, with three large windows on each side, with a door in front and a chimney in the back. The seats were of pine made to accommodate two scholars. The furnace was a stove 3 feet long, 2 feet wide and 2 feet high. The stove was placed in the middle of the room and pipe ran to the end of the building. The school had between 75 and 80 scholars and had only one teacher. The students were taught reading, writing, arithmetic, grammer, history, physiology and geography. Books used were Ray's Arithmetic, Pinneo's Grammer, Monteeth's Geography and McGuffy's Readers. Slates and stone pencils were used for writing.

Just south of where the first schoolhouse-church stood is the second schoolhouse, a neat brick building which stands on a hill at 2480 Putnam Street. This building had a belfrey and a bell and was built in 1878. The building still stands today and although it has a new front and is not used as a school, it can still be recognized as the schoolhouse. (3)

The first annual commencement of the Lake Public Schools took place in Lake Station, Indiana, Wednesday evening June 1, 1892. The graduating class consisted of four people Ernest Roper, Ernest Guyer, Robert Roper and Seth Corey. This was a graduation from eighth grade which was as high as the schools went at this time.

This takes us to the time of a school which is still in existence as a school, Central Elementary.

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Central Elementary School is located at 2520 Pike Street. Construction on Central Elementary began in 1912 and classes began in 1914. The total cost for building this school was $20,000.00. Originally there were four class rooms serving grades 1-8. All classes were doubled up with first and second grades together, third and fourth grades together, fifth and sixth grades together and seventh and eighth grades together. In 1928 the first high school classes were held in this building, this being the ninth and tenth grades.

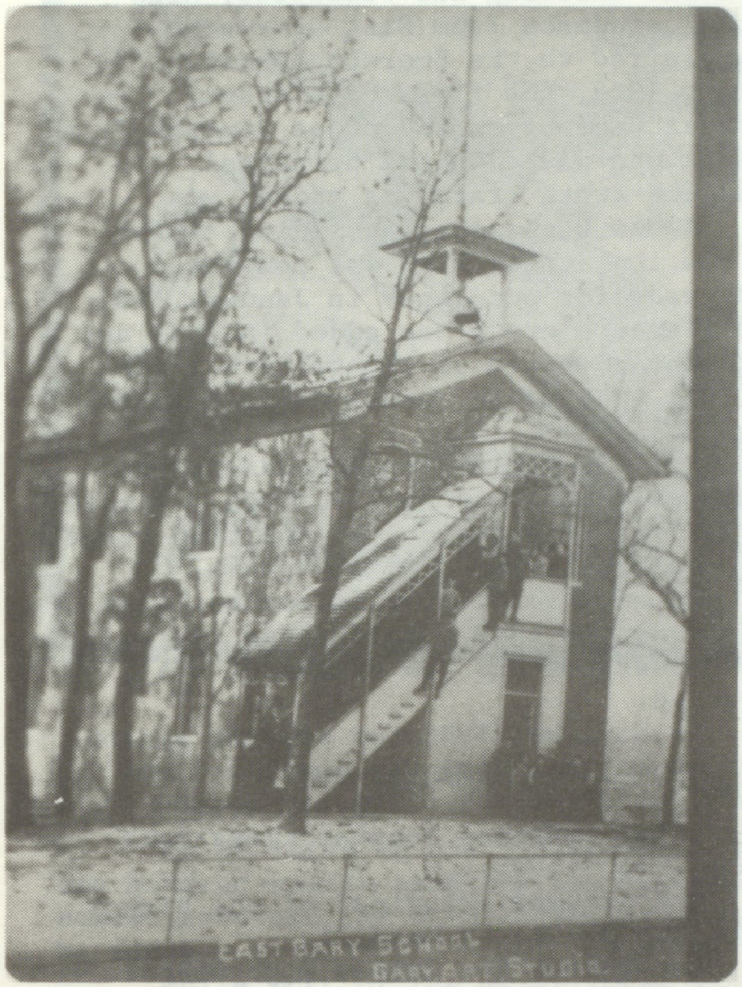
Today Central has grades kindergarden to sixth grades plus two special education classes. Mr. Richard Haddad is the present principal.

CARL J. POLK ELEMENTARY: Carl J. Polk Elementary located at 2460 Vermillion Street was built in 1952 with the first classes held in 1953. Originally there were six rooms which served grades 1-4. Alma Bryant was the first principal

The first addition to the school was in 1956 and the second in 1962. Presently there are twelve classrooms plus a library and cafeteria. Grades kindergarden through sixth are housed here. The present enrollment is 316 and Mr. Iran Floyd is the principal.

VIRGIL I. BAILEY ELEMENTARY: Virgil I. Bailey Elementary at 2100 Union Street is the newest school in East Gary. It was first opened in November of 1967. The school was named after the first school superintendent. Dale Griesel was the first and only principal. There are twelve classrooms and two kindergardens. Also included is a full library, a multi-purpose room, kitchen and large office complex.

The school was constructed in a bee hive design. This means all rooms are six-sided and have non-bearing walls which can open into one another and create larger rooms.



OLD EAST GARY SCHOOL

ALEXANDER HAMILTON ELEMENTARY: Alexander Hamilton Elementary School at 2900 Lake Street was originally erected in 1957 with four classrooms and serving grades 1-4. The head teacher at this time was Carol Sweeney. Mrs. Alma Bryant was the first principal of the school and spent half a day at Hamilton School and half a day at Polk which was then East Side. In 1959 four new classrooms were added and in 1963 four more rooms were added including the multi-purpose room and cafeteria. In 1967 Mr. Jim Michaels became principal and is the present principal.

In 1975 the newest addition was built. This includes the open classroom concept, offices, nurses quarters and an art room. The school PTA also raised money to purchase new playground equipment which was received and put up in the spring of 1976. This PTA also has the destinction of having 200 members in the Bicentennial year.

EDISON JUNIOR HIGH: Edison Junior High which is located at 2540 Pike Street actually began in 1932 as the high school building. It wasn't until the 1956-57 school year that a Junior High came into existance in East Gary. In that year, the junior high began housing grades 7-9. Previous to this time, the elementary schools had grades one through eight and the high school had grades nine through twelve. In the 1962-63 school year, grades 6, 7 and 8 were at the junior high and the 9th went to the high school. In the 1967-68 school year, the junior high became grades 7 and 8 as it is now.

Robert K. Campbell was the first principal and Dennis K. Shawver is the present principal. There are about 407 students and twenty-one classrooms.

EDISON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL: *Edison Senior High School is located at* 3304 Parkside. The first high school classes in the history of East Gary were organized in 1928 in the present Central Elementary building. Until 1928, when the building was remodeled, high school students from East Gary were transferred to the Emerson School. During 1928, the first high school classes were organized under Kenneth J. Wright who was then the principal. In 1929 the tenth grade was added.

THE EAST GARY SCHOOL TODAY
2480 PUTNAM STREET

A new high school building, which is now the Junior High was completed and ready for occupancy in January 1932. The eleventh grade was added in 1933 and with the addition of the twelfth grade in 1934, the school became a four year high school.

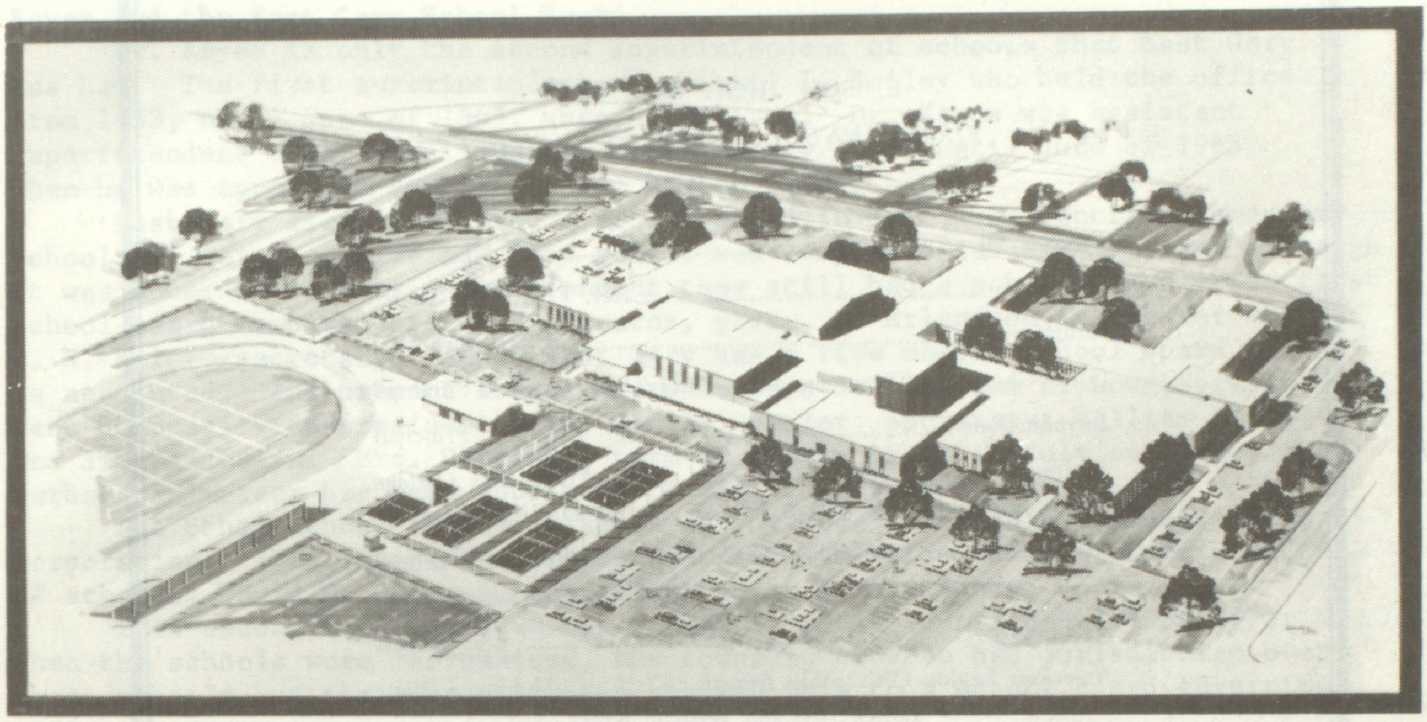
The first annual commencement for the high school was May 23, 1934. Virgil I. Bailey was principal of the high school at this time.

An addition to the Edison building was opened in 1949. This added six new classrooms and the gymnasium was enlarged.

In November 1956 the present senior high school building was completed and ready for occupancy. The new modern school had thirteen regular classrooms and a large library.

The present principal of the high school is Mr. Leroy Webdell.

The future for Edison High School includes growth because funds have been allocated for expansion of the present high school. This expansion includes bringing the junior high students over to the existing location and combining them to have Edison Junior-Senior High School. The proposed addition will be more than double the size of the present structure. Included in the new addition are twelve regular classrooms, with one designated as a language lab. Plans also include four science laboratories and a lecture room with a capacity of sixty-five students. The business department will have two of the twelve regular classrooms and three machine rooms, while the industrial arts department will have a new power mechanics shop. A band room and a choral room, each with built-in risers and practice rooms are also included. A small locker room and gymnasium have also been included to accomodate the junior high physical education classes as well as an expanded physical education program.



PROPOSED EDISON JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

In addition to the classrooms a new library with an approximate capacity of one hundred twenty students has been planned. To date the students at the high school have not had a cafeteria or an auditorium. Both of these facilities will be added.

While most of the money spent will be on the addition, a portion of the expenditures will go to improve the existing structure in order to accomodate both senior and junior high students in a structure that was once just a senior high school.

The new building will probably be ready for occupancy by the 1977-78 school year.

EDISON HIGH SCHOOL

FIRST ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

MAY 23, 1934

Processional ..... Coral Jefferis

Invocation ..... Rev. Francis X. Guerre

Salutatory ..... Ellen Puchowski

Girls' Chorus .... "Beauteous Morn" and "A Brown Bird Singing"

Introductions ..... Mr. Virgil I. Bailey, Principal

Address ..... Prof. J. Raymond Shutz' Manchester College
"Reconditioning Our Ideals For An Age Of Disillusionment"

Mixed Chorus .... "To Thee, O County " & "Youth and Spring"
Mrs. Bernice Engels, Director

Valedictory ..... Lois Bersell

American Legion Citizenship Awards ..... Andrew J. Flatt
Lois Bersell and William Kraft

Piano Solo .... "Alt Wein" by Godowsky ..... Sylvia Hamilton

Presentation of Diplomas ..... Mr. Siegle Lee
President, Board of Education

Benediction ..... Rev. Francis X. Guerre

Recessional ..... Coral Jefferis

CLASS OF 1934

Lois Bersell	William Kraft	Rhoda Ranger
Mary Jane Blaney	Mary Lamitz	Mary Rebeck
Alex Bumbera	Winifred Lee	L. J. Rosenfield
Henry Day	Rankin McDaniel	Howard Strong
Gazella Demo	Ruby McGrath	Alex Szostek
Mary Demo	Harold Michaels	Vernon Vinton
Edna Friedel	Margaret Michaels	Bernice Villiaume
Richard Haddad	Mary Pavlecich	Alice Williams
Peter Karsa	Ellen Puchowski	Lloyd Young
Lydia Kovalow		

Mr. Virgil I. Bailey, Principal
Mr. Frank R. Stroube, Sponsor

SCHOOLS

In East Gary, there actually exist two school systems. One system is under the jurisdiction of the East Gary Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kosmas Kayes and the East Gary School Board.

Dr. Kayes is only the second superintendent of schools that East Gary has had. The first superintendent was Virgil I. Bailey who held the office from 1933, until June of 1965, when he retired. Dr. Kayes was assistant superintendent under Virgil Bailey from January 1965, until June of 1965 when he was appointed superintendent by the school board.

East Gary first appointed a school board in 1911 when Central Elementary School was being considered. The school was completed in 1913-1914 and although it was under the county superintendent they still had a school board. The first school board members were, T.J. Stearns, pres., O. Erlandson, treasurer and W. H. Meier, secretary. Today East Gary has a five member school board which is appointed. The present school board members are William E. Long, president, Pete Chappas, vice-president, Mrs. Stella Hartley, secretary, William Ellis and Jim Vanderlin. Mrs. Hartley's term of office is up in July and Mrs. Barbara Palmateer has been appointed to fill this vacancy.

The other school system is known as the Hobart Township Community School Corporation. This school system is under the jurisdiction of a superintendent of schools, David O. Dickson, who is appointed by the school board.

This second school system was formed in 1975. Until January of 1975, when the schools were reorganized, the township trustee had jurisdiction over these schools but the reorganization changed this to a school board governing system.

The present school board was first appointed to fill the interim term until an election could be held and all were elected. The school board is Joe Kasper, president, Mrs. Jo Ellen Breese, secretary, Herbert Warren, Mrs. Betty Jonaitis and Gilbert Potts, board members.

The schools under the township system are Henry Evans Elementary, Meister Elementary, River Forest Elementary and River Forest Junior-Senior High Schools.

Although these schools are under the township school system's jurisdiction all with the exception of Meister Elementary are located in East Gary and are attended by East Gary students, as well as students from Hobart Township, therefore they are included in this history.

EVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Evans Elementary School was originally named Godair Park School and located on 14 wooded acres called Godair Park in Hobart Township. The original frame school building burned down in August of 1944. There was no fire department at that time. Until 1945, the children were bused to Hobart and Franklin School in Glen Park. Then in 1945-46, they were bused to the New Chicago Town Hall, a store building and the Board of Health building at 15th and Virginia.

The present Henry S. Evans School was built in 1946 on the same site of Godair Park School and named after Henry Sherman Evans, Hobart Township Trustee.

Mr. Edgar Miller was the first principal and was followed by Mr. Eldon Neff. Today's principal is Mr. Kevin Grindlay who became the principal in 1957.

Ten new classrooms and new restrooms were added in 1951. In 1953 four classrooms and offices were added.

Fire struck again at Evans school on Feb. 11, 1967. It was determined that vandals were responsible. Although the main office was totally destroyed, it was completely remodeled and destroyed equipment was replaced.

The newest addition to Evans School was in 1968. Six self-contained classrooms, a library, teachers' lounge and restrooms were added.

JOHN IVAN MEISTER SCHOOL: John Ivan Meister School was named for the man who was Hobart Township Trustee from 1951-58. The original building was constructed on an 11 acre site in 1960.

The original staff included Mr. Ronald Rife, principal, Mrs. Anita Lee, secretary, Mrs. Juane Gordon, cafeteria manager, Mr. John Lentner custodian and teachers, Mildred Simpson, Ruth Campbell, Eva Nelson, Jo Anne Kuether and Frank Szunalski. The present principal is Mr. Charles Cherry who became principal in 1967.

The opening of this new school at 33rd and Jay Street relieved the serious overcrowded conditions that existed in the Hobart Township School System.

In 1966, an addition consisting of an area of 13,000 sq. ft. and at a cost of $190,000 was completed. The new addition housed one double room library, storage areas, a nurse's room and a teachers lounge. There were also three double classrooms added that were separated by a movable wall that allowed single class and large group instruction.

RIVER FOREST ELEMENTARY: River Forest Elementary at Indiana Street and Huber Blvd. held its first classes in the 1956-57 school year. John I. Meister was trustee at this time. The first principal was Mr. Lemmel. There were twenty-one classrooms when the school opened and they served grades 1 through 6. Additional rooms were put in and the building was remodeled in 1969. The present principal is Mr. Medford Newman.

RIVER FOREST JUNIOR HIGH: River Forest Junior High at Indiana Street and Huber Blvd. was first opened for the 1959-60 school year. Mr. Richard Abel was the first principal.

Comprehensive classes such as math, arts and sciences as well as exploratory classes such as shop and home economics are offered. The junior high has eighteen classes plus they share shops and band rooms with the senior high students. The present principal is Mr. John Newton.

RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL: River Forest High School is today located at Indiana Street and Huber Blvd. with the grade school and the junior high school.

The first records of a high school in Hobart Township date back to the year 1890. A high school at this time went up to the eighth grade. There was no official name for the school but Mr. P. S. Gristy was the principal at that time. He had ten male and twelve female students enrolled in the high school. Mr. Gristy signed his contract June 10, 1890 for $5.00 per day for the term of thirty-six weeks commencing on Monday the 8th day of September 1890.

River Forest High School as it is known today had its beginnings early in the year of 1956. At that time Hobart City Schools notified the township trustee that there was no room at Hobart for the freshman class of the coming school year. After investigating all possibilities, it was decided that the only way out was to house the incoming freshmen in the Henry S. Evans School and to start a holding company in order to build a proper high school.

On Sept. 24, 1958, the new River Forest High School was formally dedicated. Mr. Edward B. Weisse was the principal at this time. The present principal is Mr. Robert W. Marszalek. At the dedication, the school had progressed from a dream that many thought wouldn't materialize into a realization of one of the finest school plants in the county. This project was accomplished by a unified effort of all people in Hobart Township; it was the outcome of a community that wanted the best for its youngsters and went out and got it.

CHURCHES

In Lake Station in 1882 there were two churches, a Catholic and a Methodist. The Catholic is reputed to be the oldest church in the township. It was frame and stood on a sand hill and had a burying ground attached. Just across from the Catholic Church stood the Methodist Church which was the first schoolhouse. Although it was called a Methodist Church by some, it was also called simply "The Church" by many because it was attended by people of all denominations, Methodists, Lutherans, and even by some Catholics after the old Catholic Church couldn't be used any more. A traveling minister conducted the services every Sunday. (3)

Although East Gary started with only two churches, today there are nineteen active churches serving every need in the city. A short history of each one follows.

BUILDING IN THE FOREGROUND IS THE OLD METHODIST CHURCH-CALLED "THE CHURCH" BY SOME

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER: The first Catholic Church built in what is now East Gary was located at a Way Station on the Stage line that operated between Michigan and Joliet. It stood on the identical spot which the present church now occupies. The Michigan Central Railroad was built from Detroit to Chicago in 1852. This way station was listed on railroad bulletins as Lake Station. After its organization as a town it was so registered in the County Court House at Crown Point. The Catholic Church had been built some time prior to this. The town consisted of forty families. The exact name of the church was unknown as historians differ in this respect. However, they agree that it was already in existance at the time of the building of the railroad in 1852.

In 1931 the present church was erected at 2447 Putnam. Father Guerre was the pastor at this time. Father Francis Quinn became the first resident pastor in 1941.

On July 9, 1946, Bishop Noll appointed Rev. Clemens L. Koors as pastor. Father Koors was responsible for the building of a rectory at the church site and for the construction of a Parochial School next to the church.

It took Father Koors six years to find a teaching order of nuns to teach at the school in East Gary. Finally in 1956 he received a written promise from the council of the Poor Sisters of St. Francis of Seraph that they would teach the school. The new school opened on Sept. 5, 1956.

Changes came to the church in 1973. On July 1, 1973 Father Koors retired and on July 9, 1973 Msgr. Paul S. Haney was appointed to St. Francis. The nuns left the school and the school term in September 1973 marked the beginning of an all-lay faculty.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH: The Calvary Baptist Church of East Gary was started as a mission work Nov. 17, 1957. The first services were held in the Boy Scout hut behind Columbus School on Clay Street.

The new church building located at 2945 New Jersey Street was dedicated on Oct. 20, 1968.

LIVERPOOL BAPTIST CHURCH: Liverpool Baptist Church is located at 35th Place and Liverpool Road in East Gary and was organized on August 7, 1955. There were originally forty-four members and the present membership is four hundred forty-three.

The new church building was erected in 1957 and 1958.

OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH

COMMUNITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: The Community United Presbyterian Church was first known as the Earl Park Presbyterian Church when it took over the teaching duties of the Pine Street Sunday School in 1926.

Plans for increasing the facilities at East Gary became a reality between 1951 and 1954 when a two story educational building was erected, mostly with volunteer help. The present building at 28th and Fayette Streets was dedicated Oct. 30, 1960. Rev. Glen Owens became minister on April 1, 1964 and remains as the present pastor.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF EAST GARY: The First Christian Church at 2535 Pike Street began in 1920 at a tent meeting held with Mr. C.M. Smithson and Mr. R. Paul Arnold, in the months of July and August. The first minister, Mr. Carpenter, was called in 1920.

In March of 1948 Mr. Ariel Brady became the minister of the church, and remains today. The present church building was dedicated in March of 1950, and on March 6, 1955, the congregation voted to build the educational annex.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH: The First Baptist Church at 1309 Central Avenue was begun on Dec. 31, 1951, with sixteen charter members. In December of 1952, lots were purchased at Central and Lake Streets and a building was begun. The first service in the new building was held on Mothers Day 1954 and the building was officially dedicated on July 18, 1954.

The present minister is Emery G. Kinslow who became the pastor on April 11, 1976.

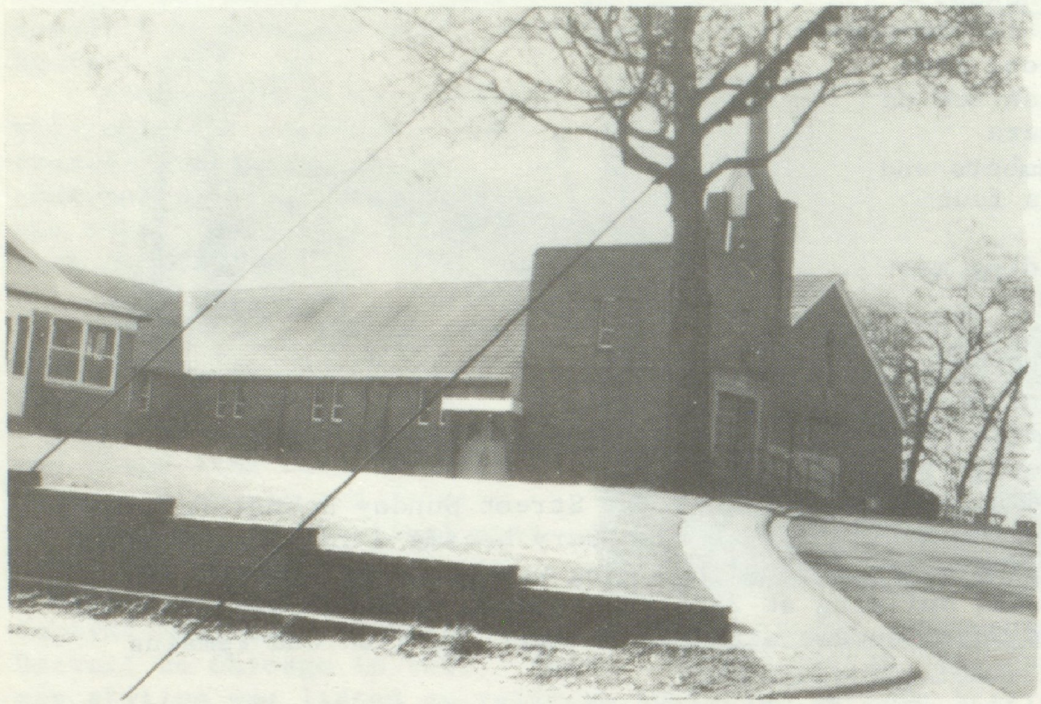
First Baptist is making plans to celebrate their 25th anniversary December 18-19th with special services.

CHURCH OF CHRIST: The East Gary Church of Christ first incorporated May 9, 1956, as the Church of Christ in Gary with the following men as trustees; Gilbert Hamilton, president, Clifford King, secretary, and Bryon C. Baily as trustee and part time minister. They first met at Wirt School in Miller and in Clifford and Sophia King's basement on Wednesday nights.

On Oct. 30, 1959, an acre of land was purchased on the 4900 block of 28th Avenue in East Gary for the new building.

On Sunday Aug.28, 1960, the congregation met for the first time in the new building.

This church began with about thirty-five members and now have one hundred forty.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER TODAY

COUNTY LINE BAPTIST CHURCH: The County Line Baptist Church at 2432 County Line Road was first started in December of 1957 with Tom Harwood as the first minister. They met at Polk School until Easter of 1958 when they moved to their present location. The present minister is Kendall Nickell.

CHURCH OF GOD: In 1956, the Church of God started in a tent under the ministry of Rev. Horace Coon, then moved to a small store building in the seven hundred block of Central Avenue where it was officially set in order.

In 1957, the church purchased property on Elkhart Street in East Gary. In 1967, a new church building was erected at the present location of 2600 Grand Blvd. In that year Rev. D.L. Rehmel became the pastor and is still the present minister of the church.

EAST GARY NAZARENE CHURCH: The Nazarene Church first started following a tent meeting in June of 1941. The first church building was located at the corner of Central and Morgan where the Pentecostal Church now is.

In May, 1964, the groundbreaking for the present church at 2075 Rush Place was held. On May 6, 1965, the first service was held. The present minister is Ronald Garrett.

29TH AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH: The 29th Avenue Baptist Church is located at 116 E. 29th Avenue. Their present building was dedicated Aug. 23, 1964, and the present minister is Rev. Aaron Farmer.

Services include Sunday School, Church, an Evening Worship and a Wednesday night prayer service.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD: The Assembly of God Church at 4410 Central Avenue was first established in 1939. The land was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Peterson. Most of the work was done on the first building by volunteers. The first building was 24 X 40 and now the building is 85 X 70 with three floors. Mrs. Elsie Hurshman was the first minister and services were one afternoon a week on Sunday. There were five members in the beginning.

Rev. D.L. Baker is the present minister and has been the minister for twenty-seven and one-half years.

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST: Trinity United Methodist Church was born amidst the strife and turmoil of the depression era. During the summer of 1931, Rev. W. B. Taylor of Gary First Church and Rev. Steve O. Reiley of Hammond First Church conducted a tent meeting in East Gary. The response was such that twenty-one people formed what was known as the East Gary United Brethren Church. Despite lack of wealth, money was borrowed and a frame structure was erected on DeKalb Street. Several years later a basement was added when the structure was moved to Elkhart Street.

As membership grew, the limits of the original building proved inadequate. Land at the present location was purchased and ground was broken in 1958. Construction began in 1959. The dedication service for the new building on Route 51 was April 10, 1960.

First Church became a Methodist Church after 1968 when there was a merger between the larger denomination of Methodism and the Evangelical United Brethren.

Present membership is one hundred fifty and the minister is Michael C. LeSaux.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH: Lutheran services were held in East Gary as early as August 1882 when East Gary was known as Lake Station.

From 1896 through 1939, services were conducted by neighboring pastors. In 1939, a dual parish was established with a mission in East Gary and in East Chicago. The Rev. L. Weber was the first called pastor.

In 1943, the congregation adopted the present name. Construction began on the present building in August of 1947.

On April 12, 1964, the church was dedicated. The present pastor is Melvin R. Geffert.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST: The Evangelical Church of Christ is located at 2702 New Hampshire Street in East Gary. The present pastor is Antonio Santiago.

INGLESIA DE DIOS INCORPORADA CHURCH OF GOD: The Inglesia De Dios Incorporada Church of God is located at 2584 Clay Street in East Gary.

CONCILIO LATINO AMERICANO DE INGLESIAS CRISTIANAS INGLESIA ISREAL: The Concilio Latino Americano De Inglesias Cristianas Inglesia Isreal Church is located at 2621 State Street in East Gary, Indiana.

EAST GARY PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD: The East Gary Pentecostal Church of God is located on the corner of Central and Morgan Street in East Gary. Rev. Bobby Owens is the pastor.

Services conducted are Sunday School, Church Service, Evening Worship, Wednesday night Prayer service and a Friday Youth Service.

APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST, PENTECOSTAL, INC.: The Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ is located at 3328 E. 35th Avenue in East Gary. The pastor is Mike Gay.

Services conducted are Sunday School, Evening Church Service, Tuesday Bible Study and a Friday Evening Worship Service.

ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations have become an important part of East Gary's history. Each organization serves a different purpose, but each one was formed with the betterment of the city foremost in it's mind.

A brief history of each of these organizations follows.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 100-AUXILIARY 95: This was chartered in 1932 to help veterans, their families, and the community as a whole. Presently there are 310 members who meet at the Legion Hall at Grand Blvd. and Central Avenue.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY: The Legion Auxiliary serves to aid the American Legion and shares the same quarters. They presently have 102 members.

EAST GARY SOCIAL CLUB, EAST GARY WOMENS CLUB AND THE BUSY BEES: These are social groups of approximately 20 members each whose aim is relaxation and fun for mothers. Each meets once a month on different days at the Community Building on Pike Street.

THE CHESS CLUB: The Chess Club draws its members from anywhere in Lake and Porter Counties but holds its meetings every Wednesday evening at the East Gary Library. New members are always welcome.

THE EAST GARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: This organization was founded in 1955. Its purpose is to advance the civic, commercial, industrial, professional, and agricultural welfare of the city of East Gary; to promote integrity and good faith, just and equitable principals in business, and uniformity in commercial usages and practices; to acquire, preserve and distribute civic, commercial and industrial statistics and information; to facilitate intelligent discussion and promote concerted action upon matters of public concern; and to encourage social activities between its members. Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at the Ramada Inn.

THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES-AERIE 2766: This group was founded in 1945 and presently has 157 members. A civic, social, and non-profit organization, it is dedicated to helping the community and various charities. Meetings are held the first and third Monday of each month at the Eagle's Hall.

THE EAGLES AUXILIARY: The Auxiliary was founded in 1970. It works to raise funds for charities and community betterment. Their meetings are the first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Eagle's Hall.

THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE-LAKE STATION LODGE 153: The F.O.P. was founded in 1970, its aims are to promote the social welfare of all the police officers and to promote harmony among them. The 22 members meet at the Ramada Inn on the second Tuesday of each month.

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE-AUXILIARY: This associate lodge is composed of citizens interested in advancing the work of the F.O.P and in creating community goodwill.

THE MOTHERS CLUB OF TROOP 2, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA: This group was organized July 7, 1933 at a meeting of 15 scout mothers in the portable near Central School.

The late L. M. Benfield Scoutmaster, called the meeting to order. Officers were elected as follows; Mrs. Chester Young, president; Mrs Guy Eaton, vice-president; Mrs. Chris Bonner, secretary and Mrs. John Kimmel, treasurer.

It was decided that all mothers of Boy Scouts automatically became members of the Mother's Club. Later the privilege of membership was extended to include any woman interested in the scouts even though she had no sons in the troop.

The purpose of the club was to promote the welfare of the troop by any means possible, the first project being a card party to raise money to send the boys to World's Fair, which opened that year in Chicago.

DISTRICT 4-NEIGHBORHOOD 3 GIRL SCOUT LEADERS: The Girl Scout Leaders meet once a month to run joint programs, organize trips and coordinate projects within the city.

There are now eleven Girl Scout troops in East Gary. This includes both Brownies and Girl Scouts.

THE EAST GARY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN WOMEN'S AUXILIARY: This auxiliary was formed on Feb. 11, 1949 at the East Gary Town Hall by the wives and mothers of firemen. The firemen gave them $100.00 to begin. Some of the original founders still active in East Gary are: Betty Sonntag (clerk-treasurer), Julia Enrico (Polk school teacher), Catherine Brenner (Polk school teacher), Stella Clark (former fire chief's wife), Ann Chester (former innkeeper), Anna Davis (first radio operator).

The purpose of the Women's Auxiliary is to aid and assist in any way possible the firemen. Through door to door solicitation they purchased the first red ambulance and furnishings such as first aid kits, sheets and pillow cases and an inhalator in 1938. Fund raising activities have provided money for kitchen utensils, the first fireman's parade float (July 1949) an auditory trining unit for the East Gary School System, a boat for drowning rescues and a toboggan after the bad snow in 1967. The auxiliary also helps with community wide fund drives for polio, cancer, and the heart fund.

THE EAST GARY LIONS CLUB: The Lions Club was sponsored by the Hobart Lions in January of 1938. By February 1938, the East Gary Club was chartered by Lions International. Virgil I. Bailey, Superintendent of the East Gary School System, became the first president of the East Gary Lions.

The purpose of the Lions Club has been to recognize community needs and develope means of meeting those needs, either through its own efforts or in cooperation with others. Today the East Gary Lions Club finds itself actively supporting such programs as; Leader Dog Program, sight conservation activities such as corneal transplants, collecting old glasses for people outside of the U.S., and support of blind projects, support of cancer research, support for blood banks, and support of CARE.

THE EAST GARY G.O.P. CLUB: The G.O.P. Club was begun in January, 1963, with the election of the first officers; chairman, George Boby; vice-chairman, Mrs. Carl Polk; secretary, Mrs. Lewis Newman and treasurer, Victor Aloia. The purpose of the organization is to encourage and support good candidates, to financially support the Republican Party and to conduct informational and educational programs in good government.

THE LIVERPOOL-OREGON COMMUNITY CLUB: This club was founded in 1970 by Herbert Warren, Leona Gutsinger, Ann House, Eugene Mansberry, Gilbert Potts, Don Sobel and Alfred Hansen to work for the improvement of the community. The club has sponsored such activities as community clean up campaigns and rummage sales. Meetings are held the last Thursday of each month.

NORTHWESTERN INDIANA BASS CLUB: This group was formed in 1975 to promote bass fishing in this area. The group of approximately 20 members meets at the East Gary Library one Friday each month.

EAST GARY SENIOR CITIZENS: The Senior Citizens organized in 1972 and are now 102 members strong. The group provides opportunities for social activities, information on consumer issues, taxes, etc. of particular interest to senior citizens, and joins with other senior citizens groups to work for legislation favorable to senior citizens. The most visible activity of the Senior Citizens during the Bicentennial celebration has been the Senior Swingers square dancing group which has made numerous appearances at parades, fairs, and on television.

The Senior Citizens are responsible for starting a program in East Gary called Tel-a-Care. The senior citizenz who live alone can give their name and address to the police station who will call them each morning to see if they are alright. If no one answers the call, a police officer will go out to their home to make sure there is nothing wrong.

Meetings are on the third Friday of the month at the city hall.

EAST GARY LITTLE LEAGUE & SENIOR LEAGUE: Made up of 300 members who work to provide the boys and girls of the community with baseball facilities.

THE SCOTTISH RITE CLUB OF EAST GARY: This is a social group for the Masons. The big event of their year is the annual Ladies Night usually held in the fall. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Community Building.

TOPS-IN 660: The local TOPS group was organized in 1969. The group is for people who aim to Take Off Pounds Sensibly and now has 50 active members. Several have graduated to KOPS, Keep Off Pounds Sensibly, since attaining their goal. The weekly Tuesday meetings include programs on nutrition, the psychology of dieting, a weigh-in, and group encouragement for every success.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: In 1968 this group was organized in East Gary. The first officers were president, Mrs.Gladys Tabadie, vice-president, Mrs. Ann Harman, secretary, Mrs. Martina Bellesis and treasurer, Mr. John Mulcahey.

The purpose of the Friends is to provide the extras for the library which are not available from tax funds. The main money making project each year is the book sale held in Central Center. Used and discarded books are donated and sold at a very reasonable price.

LIONS CLUB WOMEN"S AUXILIARY: In July, 1953, a group of women, wives of East Gary Lion members, met in the Redeemer Lutheran Church basement to discuss the possibility of forming a Lions Auxiliary. The first year membership totaled 56. For ten years an annual dance was held with the proceeds going to the Lions Club Building Fund. Each year that the Lions Club had a minstrel show, the Lions Auxiliary members helped by making costumes, applying make-up for the cast and selling snacks.

In 1969 the club started their annual May Luncheon with proceeds going to a scholarship to be awarded to a graduating senior girl in the amount of $250.00.

Meetings are at the East Gary Library, the 2nd Monday of each month at 8 P.M.

THE LAKE GUN CLUB: This club was organized in 1902 for target practice and to promote sportmanship. The trap shoot for clay pigeons was in the area where Edison High School is now located.

THE POLICE ASSOCIATION: The Police Association was founded in 1952. One of the original nine members is Joe Aloia, the former police chief, another of the original members is George Boby who was a member of the Town Board. The organization today no longer is associated with the police department or the F.O.P., but has become a civic organization in its own right.

In the past, the Police Association has contributed annually to civic groups and projects. One large project was a donation of $6,400.00 to the fire and police station when they were being constructed. Presently they are in the process of constructing a large community building to be available to residents and clubs for rent. The 60' X 132' building is under construction on five acres of land at 29th and Vigo Streets.

EAST GARY INTER-CLUB COUNCIL: The Inter-Club Council was founded in 1947 with the late Evelyn Cogley being one of its first members and recording secretary.

The Council's goal is to provide programs such as crafts and ceramics for the children of the community for a very nominal fee and to hire directors and assistants to teach the children. A Christmas party is given every year with an average of two to three hundred attending.

The council allows the use of their building on Pike Street to all Little League organizations and Boy and Girl Scouts.

EAST GARY WAR MOTHERS-UNIT 21: The War Mothers was organized Aug. 12, 1942, with ten charter members. Eunice Bonner was president, first vice-president was Viola Young, second vice-president was Inez McBride, Fern Husted was secretary and Henrietta Kimmel was treasurer. The members met in their homes, made their by-laws and adopted the Poinsietta as their official flower. These flowers are sold on December 7th each year to help the veterans in the hospitals.

During the years, the mothers had pot luck dinners, sold cook books and had card and bunko parties to raise funds. They gave to the Red Cross, Polio fund, blood donations, war chest and community fund. They also made Christmas kits for veterans overseas and Christmas baskets for the needy at home.

In 1953 they erected a monument to the war dead. The monument stands at Memorial Point a small park which sits between Central Avenue and Fairview.

THE EAST GARY DEMOCRATIC CLUB: The Democratic Club was incorporated Oct. 19, 1950. The purpose of the organization is to coordinate the efforts of members in obtaining and improving civic projects, promotions of patriotism and for the improvement of the public welfare of the city of East Gary.

The club has 125 members and meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month at East Gary's Eagle's Hall.

The Women's Auxiliary has 70 members and meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Community Building.

ROYAL-NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA, PAULDING CAMP #9217: The Royal Neighbors is a Fraternal Organization for insurance and social benefits. The East Gary chapter was instituted and chartered on Nov. 24, 1922, by Deputy Supreme Oracle Violet V. Hayden and named for Marie A. Paulding who helped organize the Fraternal Lodge. Today there are 89 members.

A juvenile department was also chartered on Sept. 15, 1927, but today it is inactive.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Was founded locally in 1950, and have joined together to promote Catholicism, support the Catholic Church and other community activities. Council 3283 was named the St. Clement Council in honor of Father Clement Koors one of the original members.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WIVES: Was chartered in 1959 by 23 women. The main objective of this organization is to promote friendship among the members and to assist the Knights of Columbus when they deem it necessary.

EAST GARY JAYCEES: The East Gary Jaycees, originally founded in the 1950's, was reorganized under the leadership of Bob Cooke in 1963.

The Jaycees were active for many years until around 1973 when the membership dropped and the only function sponsored by the Jaycees was the Junior Miss Pageant. Joe Stevens co-ordinated this project and in doing so helped to hold the Jaycees together during a difficult time.

In 1975 a group of men Brian Galvin, Dennis Eaton, Joe Kolosci, Dave Moore and William Eaton with the help of the regional Vice-President, Bob Rohde, reactivated the chapter and brought the membership up to the required twenty-five members.

Since the May 15, 1976 Installation Banquet, and under the leadership of the new president William Eaton, the number of members has risen from twenty-five to forty.

The present goal is to reach a membership of one hundred members by the end of 1976 and to maintain an active chapter.

BOY SCOUT TROOPS: There are three Boy Scout troops in East Gary. They are Troop 20, Troop 400 and Troop 485.

CUB SCOUTS: There are three Cub Scout packs in East Gary. They are Pack 20, Pack 131 and Pack 485.

BUSINESS

Lake Station in 1852 had a population of about forty families. There were two dry goods stores, three grocery stores, two blacksmith's shops, one railroad blacksmith's shop, one wagon shop, five saloons, one shoemakers' shop, two wind water elevators for the railroad, five boarding houses, one basket maker, one meat market. It contained also one church, and one school house, the Audubon Hotel and an engine house. Most of the inhabitants were connected with the railroad. The depot grounds were the largest and most tastefully laid out of any in the country. (8)

Such was T.H. Ball's description of Lake Station in 1852. Today there are almost two hundred thirty businesses in East Gary. The business district in East Gary is spread out. Many businesses have located along Central Avenue, others have chosen Route 51 for a location and still others are along DeKalb Street and Liverpool Road.

CENTRAL CENTER TODAY IN FOREGROUND
TRUE VALUE HARDWARE AND DIME STORE IN BACKGROUND

Power for the city is provided by Northern Indiana Public Service Company and the phone service comes from General Telephone.

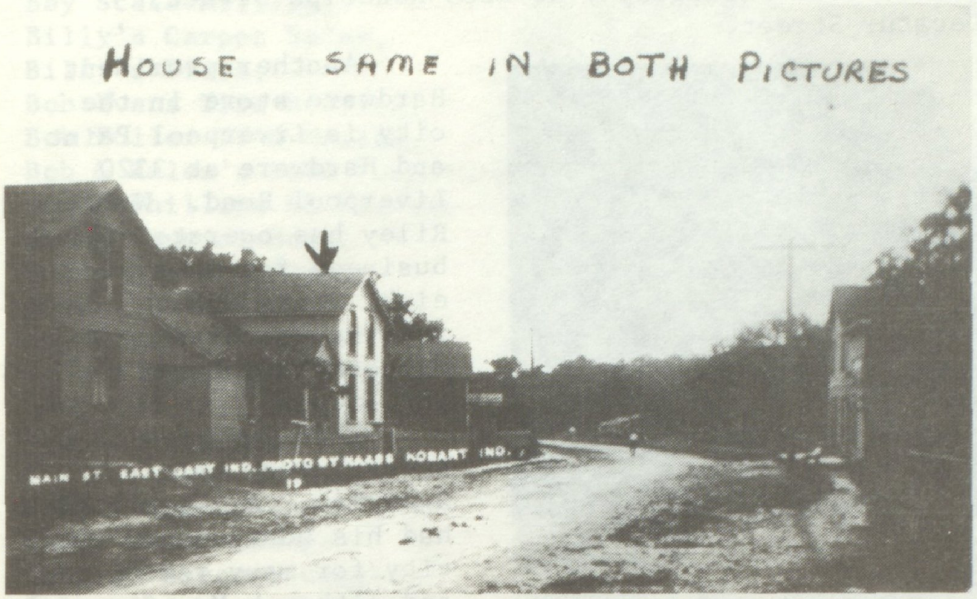
Central Center is located on Central Avenue and was opened in the summer of 1958. At that time there were eleven stores in the center. Today two new buildings are in the process of being built to expand two of the businesses in the Center, Smith's TV and Central Center Beauty Shop. The Center also includes Center Drugs, Boyer's Dress Shop, East Gary Bargain Corner, Central Center business office, Dr. Valencia's office, Center Barber Shop, the Stepping Stone Restaurant and Harvey's Mart which took over the former Ben Franklin store and the old National grocery store building.

Next to Central Center to the east, at 2750 Central Avenue is one of the newer buildings in the city. True Value Hardware and The Dime Store opened March, 1975. The business is operated by Erv Christenson who formerly had the Ben Franklin store in East Gary since 1958.

Wallins Hardware is on Central Avenue at 3461 Central Avenue. The business is run by Mrs. Herb Wallin and her son and has been in operation for twenty-nine years.

The older of the two banks in the city is located at 3115 Central Avenue. The Lake County State Bank was first started in 1956, with the help of Leo Meister, who would later be the city's first mayor. In 1963 they merged with the Gary Trust and Savings Bank to form what is now the Bank of Indiana National Association.

Gary National Bank at 3400 Central Avenue is the newest bank in the city. This bank forst opened in March of 1970.



CENTRAL AVENUE IN EARLY 1900'S
THEN CALLED MAIN STREET

East Gary's savings and loan bank is First Federal Savings and Loan, which is located at 3709 Central Avenue.

HEALTH CARE: The city's only Optometrist is Richard Bessler. His office is located at 3453 Central Avenue and has been in East Gary for many years.

On the southwest corner of Route 51 and Central Avenue where Scot Drugs now stands, Leo Meister, East Gary's first mayor, opened the first successful drugstore in East Gary. He originally was in a small white building which is now close to the S curve and surves as Forney's Meat Market. Meister later moved accross the street to the building which now is GiGi's Restaurant, on the northwest corner of Route 51 and Central Avenue.

Above GiGi's is where Dr. Winford J. Mather, East Gary's first doctor, had an office. Dr. Mather has been in practice in East Gary since 1937 and now has an office at 2250 Ripley Street.

East Gary Clinical Laboratory is located at 3820 Central Avenue. The lab is responsible for running tests that the doctors in the area order. Also located in this complex are two doctors Dr. Robert Penn, who is responsible for starting the clinic and Dr. Lands.

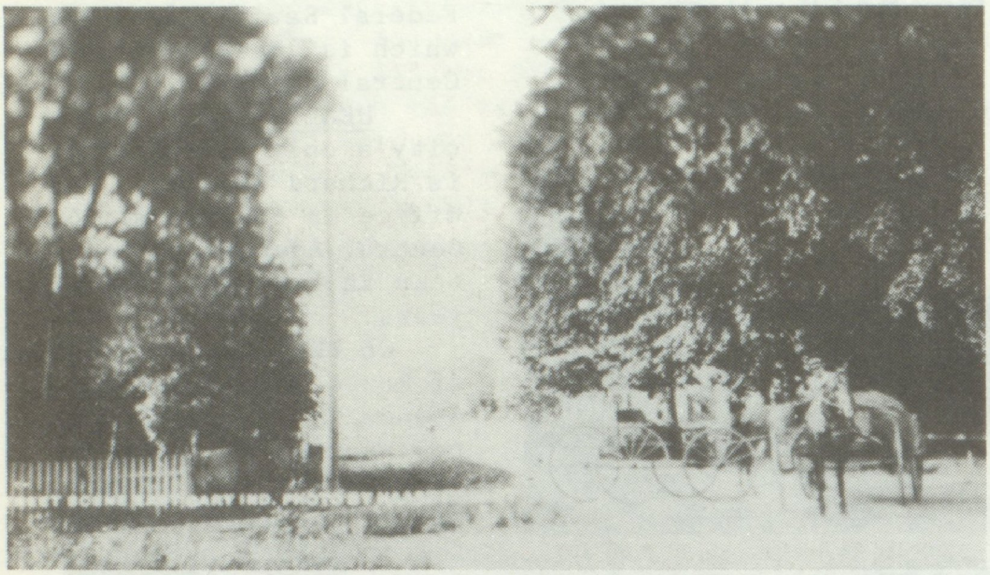
APPROXIMATELY SAME STREET SCENE AS ABOVE
AROUND 3500 CENTRAL AVENUE

Dr. Ned Anderson is East Gary's only dentist. His office is located at 3810 Central Avenue.

Gertie's Florist is the flower shop in town, it is located at 1643 Central Avenue and has been in business for twenty-six years. The business was previously

owned by Bruce and Ella Donald and is now owned by Gertie Nix.

Photographers in town are Wm. Eaton Photography at 2205 Randolph Street, and Laco Photography at 2860 Decatur Street.



LOOKING NORTH FROM RAILROAD TRACKS ON RIPLEY ST. EARLY 1900'S

Another prominent Hardware store in the city is Liverpool Paint and Hardware at 3320 Liverpool Road. Wallace Riley has operated this business for twenty-eight years and it remains one of the largest businesses in the area.

East Gary has several real estate agencies. Al Ganz has had his business in the city for many years, and although Mr. Ganz is now retired his son is operating the business. Roland Moore of Moore Real Estate has been in East Gary on Central Avenue since 1969. The Brokers also on Central Avenue began as Ferguson Real Estate.

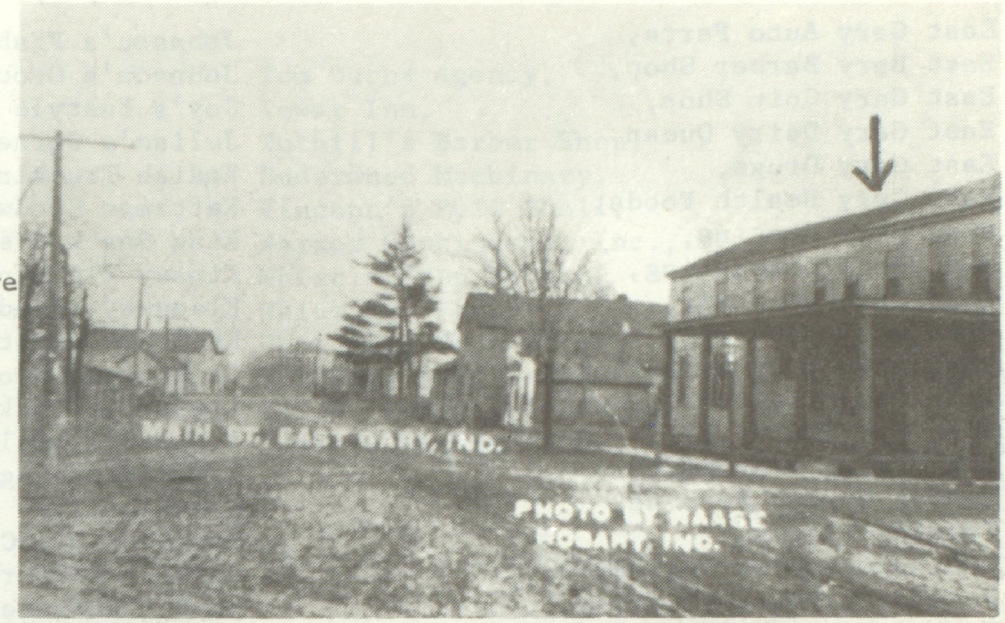
East Gary also has successful manufacturers in Sun Engineering and Greenwald Surgical and East Gary Concrete Products. All are known throughout the country for their products.

Along with these businesses I would like to list the other existing businesses in the city. Room will not allow a history of each one but their importance should be noted:

Aamco Transmissions,
A.B.C. Service,
Ace Insulating Co.,
Aero Trucking,
Ann's East Gary Perm. Wave
Arman's of East Gary,
Artistic Cleaners,
Asbridge Motors,
B & B Heating,
Barbara's Beauty Shop,

LOOKING NORTH FROM RAILROAD TRACKS ON RIPLEY ST. TODAY

Bartos Lunch,
Bay State Milling,
Billy's Carpet Sales,
Billy's Pizza,
Bob Evans Tire Service,
Bob Fuller TV & Marine,
Bob & Helen's Used Furniture
Bob's Phillips 66 Service,
Brady Funeral Home,
Bud's Bar and Grill,
Burger Chef #15,
Buy Low #4,
Buzz's Heating & Air Cond.,
Camp 133 Bait Shop,
C & C. Aquatics,
C & C. Cycle Shop,
Carson's Body Shop,
Cedar Chest Lounge,
Central Bargain Center,
Central Center Car Wash,
Central Grocery Store,
Central Standard,
Central Tire and Supply,
Central Trailer Sales,
Central Upholstery,
Chester's Bar,
Clark Oil Company,
Clark Oil Company,
Coconut Grove,
Complete Auto Supply,
Complete Tool Service,
Country Store,
Courtesy Department Store,
Crossroads Truck Stop,
Crossroads Permit,
Dahlstrom Heating,
Dallas-Mavis Forwarding,
DeKalb Barber Shop,
DeKalb Drugs,
D.F. Bast Trucking,
D & M Auto Parts,
Dishno Aluminum Products,
Don's Marathon Service,
Dragash Camper Sales,
Duffy's Tavern,
East Gary Auto Body Shop,



STREET SCENE-EARLY 1900's
ON THE RIGHT IS THE AUDUBON

SAME STREET SCENE TODAY-AROUND 3400 CENTRAL
VACANT LOT ON RIGHT IS WHERE AUDUBON STOOD

East Gary Auto Parts,
East Bary Barber Shop,
East Gary Coin Shop,
East Gary Dairy Queen,
East Gary Drugs,
East Gary Health Foods,
East Gary Heating,
East Gary Insulating,
East Gary Electric,
East Gary Hardware,
East Gary License Bureau,
East Gary Liquors,
East Gary Transit,
ECK Miller Transport,
Eddy's Washer Service,
Edwards Motors,
Fabian & Fabian Engineers,
Fabair Airport,
Fashon Beauty Salon,
Fergies Paint Store,
J.M. Motors,
Frank's Auto Sales,
Frank's Gulf,
Garber Insurance,
Garber's Lettering,
Gary-Hobart Water Company,
Gary-Hobart Roofing,
Gene's Arco,
Gene's Sunoco,
G & M Camper Sales,
Gomez Grocery,
Hall's Auto Sales,
Harley Davidson,
Harry's Roofing,
Hill's Excavating,
Homan & Wright Plumbing,
Howard Martin Trucking,
Incentive Insurance,
Indiana Piping Company,
Interstate Motor Freight,
J. & B. Auto Sales,
J. & D. Auto Sales,
Jim's Auto Repairs,
Jimmies Bar,
Jim & Minnie's Plaster Shop,
Joe's Office Machine,
John's Citgo,
John's Used Cars,
Johnny's Auto Repair,
Johnny's Pastery Shop,
Johnson's Fish and Shrimp,
Johnson's Grocery,
Joy's Instyle Beauty Shop,
Julian's Corner,
Kadish Trucking,
Keitzman Hardware,
King Snack Systems,
Kinsey Plumbing and Heating,
Kleenway Laundry and Cleaners,
Krupchak Plastering Cont.,
La Nortena Grocery,
Lawrence Trucking & Exc.,
Leonard's Quality Meats,
L & H Plumbing & Heating,
Mabel's Cafe,
Marathon Oil Company,
Marco's Barber Shop,
Mather's Washerette,
McCord Tire Company,
Mefford Electric,
Midco Stations,
Milady's Beauty Shop,
Mobile Saw & Weld Shop,
Muffoletto's Bakery,
Navajo Freight Lines,
Nederman's Glass & Trim,
Nibbe Insurance,
North Port Realty,
Nu Way Plumbing and Heating,
Old Colony Realty,
Old Lake Tavern,
Olson & Frum Funeral Home,
Ondras Auto & Marine
Palmer's Blacktop & Paving,
Palmers Washerette,
Parker's Oil Company,
Phyllis's Poodle Parlour,
Purser's Grocery,
Quality Motors,
Ramada Inn,
Ray's Lanes & Lounge,
Redieh's Interstate,
R.K.C. Enterprises,
Robbie's Motors,
Robertson's Vacuum Cleaners,
Roberto's Pizza,
Robo Car Wash,
Rock Island Motor Line,
R & H Cycles,
R & H Plumbing,

Riverside Trailer Park,
Riverview Lounge,
R & S Service,
R & W Auto Rebuilders,
R & W Auto Sales,
R & W Trucking,
Sam's Arco,
Samples By Artemis,
Saveway Oil Company,
S Curve Barber Shop,
Sew It Seams,
Sherman's Automotive,
Shop Rite,
Simon's Sport Shop,
Spectrum Designs,
Spudnuts Coffee Shop,
Square Deal Coal & Fuel,
S & S Construction,
State Farm Insurance,
Summerfield G.M.C. Truck,
Tatone Towing & Rental,
Taylor Rug & Upholstery,
The Hair Hut,
Thrif T Mart,
T & M Construction,
Tom Burns Agency,
Tower Inn,
Tuthill's Barber Shop,
Underwood Machinery,
Vincent's Full Shell,
Werner Continental Inc.,
Whistle Stop Tavern,
White Hen Pantry,
Whitledge Shoe Store,
Williams Auto Sales,
Yellow Freight Systems,
Zupko's Liquor Store

Business in East Gary has come a long way. These businesses in the city not only serve an economic purpose but have halped build the community and make it strong.

PERSONALITIES

Every city has those citizens of whom they are particularly proud, who either grow up in the city or spend many years of their lives in the city and then go out and make a special place in the world for themselves.

East Gary has had some of these people who went on from here to make a name for themselves. We wish to mention a few of these people here.

LORRAINE BYMAN: Lorraine Byman was the daughter of Oscar and Amelia Byman who lived at 2185 Ripley Street where the Marathon Station at the entrance to the Ramada now stands. Lorraine graduated from Edison High School in 1941 and went on to College.

Lorraine Byman received her musical training in Chicago and New York City. She was a graduate from the Julliard School of Music and was a scholarship student of Marcel Grandjany. She also studied music in Europe in 1953.

In 1956 Miss Byman was the principal harpist with the Tulsa Philharmonic Orchestra. She taught at the University of Tulsa and was staff harpist at radio station KVOO. She was also the accompanist for the Tulsa Touring Company's performance of Tea House of the August Moon.

Her family moved away from East Gary and we don't know her present wherabouts.

The picture at the right was made the last time she was in East Gary and played for a wedding.

LORRAINE BYMAN AT HARP

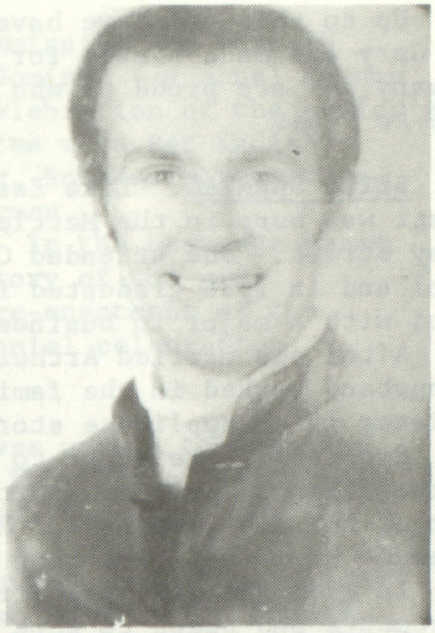
CARL JABLONSKI: Carl Jablonski, a famous choreographer, was born in Gary, Indiana June 23, 1937. Two months later his family moved to East Gary. He grew up in East Gary and was a cheerleader at Edison High School where he graduated in 1955.

In 1951, while a teenager, he was in an acrobatic act called "The Atomic Six." After high school he danced in the St. Louis Municipal Opera.

Carl Jablonski has worked as a choreographer on such shows as Judy Garland Show, Carol Burnett Show, Mitzi Gaynor's night club act and a night club act for the Jackson Five. He also did the choreography for a series of thirteen one hour

specials called the "NBC Follies" where he worked with such stars as Sammy Davis Jr., Carol Lawrence, Mickey Rooney, Robert Goulet, Elke Sommers, Milton Berle, Steve Lawrence, Sally Struthers, Florence Henderson, Ken Berry, Jack Cassidy, Connie Stevens, John Davidson and Jerry Lewis. It was for his work on the "NBC Follies" that he was nominated for an Emmy Award.

Carl Jablonski makes his home in Hollywood, California but his mother still lives in East Gary on Benton Street and he visits her here often.



CARL JABLONSKI

JOIE RAY: Joie Ray, an internationally famous runner, was born in Kankakee, Illinois on April 13, 1894. He first came to live in East Gary in 1918 and then went on the road until 1936 when he retired from running and went to work in the Gary Sheet & Tin Mill.

Joie Ray became a great runner on his own without the benefit of high school or college training. As a child he was frail and he had to work hard to overcome this handicap.

JOIE RAY

He ran his first race at the age of 13, over a 15 mile course, pitted against older men, he still came in second place.

At San Francisco World Fair three years later Joie out ran Norman Taber, then world record holder to win the IAC-National AAU mile.

Joie Ray ran in the 1920, 1925 and 1928 Olympics. In 1925 he tied the mile record of 4.12 minutes and in 1928 he became the first American to finish in the Olympics marathon race. In all he had 32 world distance track records in the 1920's.

After returning to East Gary, Joie Ray was appointed chief programer for the local Ground Observers Corp. in October of 1956. He retired from the Sheet & Tin mill in 1959.

At the age of 67 he could still run the mile in 6.32.6 seconds and he ran a mile every day.

Joie Ray, now 82, is being inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame June 11, 1976, in Charlston , W. Virginia.

Up to this point we have spoken briefly about those people who have left East Gary and made a name for themselves. Now we wish to mention a couple, of the many, we are proud of who stayed in East Gary and helped make it a better place to live.

BETTY SONNTAG: Like East Gary, Betty Burnett was born in the Mettleman house on Ripley Street. She attended Central Elementary School and in 1936 graduated from Edison High School with a major in business.

After she married Arthur Sonntag she and her husband worked in the family Texaco station and later in an appliance store.

Eventually she began to work part time for the fire and police department on the first floor of the old town hall. Many times filling in became more full time than part time.

In 1956 she left the fire and police departments and began to work for the water department.

In 1961 she became assistant to Ester Belle Swift and in 1963 following in the footsteps of her grandfather and great uncle, Michael and William Reich, who were on the first town board, she entered politics.

BETTY SONNTAG

In 1963 she won the election for clerk-treasurer and took office January 1, 1964. She has run in and won every election since, a total of twelve years as clerk-treasurer.

Betty's interests vary widley but no matter how busy she is there is one thing you can always count on and that is if you need her she'll be there as she has been for East Gary for over twenty years.

GOLDIE L. KING: Goldie King taught school in East Gary for fifty years. She began teaching in 1923 at the Pine Street School which was on 28th Avenue. Two years later in 1925 Columbus School was completed and she taught there until she retired.

Goldie King was born in Merrilville, one of eight children. She attended grade school in Merrilville and later graduated from Emerson High School and Valparaiso University. She went on to obtain a B.S. degree in education after studying at Indiana State Normal and Pestalozzi Froebel Teachers College in Chicago.

On September 20, 1970 the name of Columbus School was changed to Goldie L. King Elementary School in honor of the woman who had dedicated so many years of her life to teaching there.

GOLDIE L. KING

Mayor Leo Meister also proclaimed Sept. 20, 1970, as Goldie King Day, with appropriate activities and ceremonies in her honor.

EAST GARY AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

The East Gary American Revolution Bicentennial Commission was born in September, 1974, when Mayor Carl Jacobs appointed Mrs. Dominic (Janette) Bonomo chairman of the steering committee to plan the city's celebration of the nation's 200th birthday. Serving on the initial steering committee were Pat Kadish, co-chairman of the committee, Joe Stevens, Wallace Riley, Bob Westmoreland, Richard Burdett, Ralph Julian, Liz Redar and Janice Sherman.

There were to be three phases of the celebration. In the Heritage phase tentative plans included a commemorative booklet of history of the area, exhibits of heritage items, an avenue of presidents, a re-enactment of the Paul Revere Ride and a costume ball to open the bicentennial celebration, music and dances by ethnic groups.

All of these original plans have been carried out.

Janice Sherman began the historical booklet, but was unable to complete the project and it was taken over by Sue Christenson in November of 1975. The book will go to the printers in June of 1976, and be ready for sale over the Fourth of July weekend.

Mrs. Judee Johnson joined the commission and organized the Colonial Arts and Crafts Demonstration Fair on October 11, 12, 1975, at Edison High School. She arranged for demonstrations of pottery, Indian fry bread, woodcarving, jeweled eggs, dry flower arrangements, quilting and many other heritage items. Mrs. Joan Kayes helped on this project by making posters and tags.

The Avenue of Presidents was completed on May 30, 1976, with the hanging of the presidential portraits along Route 51. The portraits of the presidents were painted by Anthony Bianco. Liz Miller beautifully hand lettered all of the portraits and the East Gary Jaycees hung them on brackets.

The Paul Revere Ride took place April 19, 1976, with Paul Revere (Mike Biggs) being captured by Redcoat (Diane Biggs). The Paul Revere Ball followed that evening. The decorating for this ball was done by Neva Binkley, Michael Fazekus, Mr. and Mrs. Bonomo, Becky Smith, Mrs. Marge Mosely, New Chicago American Legion Post 454, with help provided by Bob Wilson, Vic Vargus, Bud Hursey, Steve Mast,Larry Hoskins and Russ Baumeister of the East Gary Volunteer Fire Department. There have been two other bicentennial balls since then, the Patriot's Ball was held in October and the George Washington Ball was held in February. Mrs. Pat Kadish was in charge of decorations for the George Washington Ball.

In April of 1976, Mrs. Lydia Hero and Mrs. Gerry Petruska joined the commission and will be co-chairmen for the ethnic festival this Fourth of July.

Festival plans included citizen of the month awards, a music festival, the 1976 carnival, old fashon events at Riverview Park, the bicentennial parade, an arts and crafts exhibit, and a boat parade.

It was decided that an award would be presented monthly by the commission to a citizen who has extended a helping hand to his or her friends, neighbors, or community. It was decided to call this award the George Award. Serving on the George Award committee are Steve Beres, chairman, Ann Galvin, Theresa Rios, River Forest High School, Richard Kurzdorfer, Edison High School, Norma Munoz, Karen Curtis and Roger Szostek. The first George Award winner was the late

Mavis Mitrisin. Subsequent winners have been Virginia Harvard, David Klym, Andy Schuster, Virginia Nush, Mrs. Catalina Lopez and Mrs. Marie Boyd. On Memorial Day, Scoutmaster Casimer Rosiecki received the latest George Award.

Mrs. Judee Johnson is completing plans for the second annual Colonial Arts and Crafts Fair, September 18 and 19. Almost 40 demonstrators have accepted invitations to participate in this years fair.

A mini-parade is scheduled for June 26, 1976, with Neva Binkley as chairman of the committee.

Sissy Williams and Julie Sinks are co-chairmen of the Queen Contest.

Becky Smith and Joyce Wright are co-chairmen of the Tiny Tot King and Queen contest.

This year's theme for the parade is "Spirit of '76-Life, Liberty and Persuit of Happiness." Joe Stevens is the 1976 parade chairman. Last year under the direction of Joe Stevens and with the help of all the committee members the float that was built went on to win Grand Prize at the Hobart parade.

Among the dreams for the Horizons or lasting memorial phase were clean-up campaign in the city, a covered bridge, canoe trail and launching site, conversion of the water tank in the park, banners at the city limits, a time capsule, a city-wide Thanksgiving prayer service and a bike trail.

Some of these goals have been achieved and still others are being worked on.

Wallace Riley, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, started a city-wide clean-up campaign to be worked on again in the spring of 1976.

A lot of work has also gone into the covered bridge project and in February of 1975, a build the bridge account was opened at the Bank of Indiana. The first donation came from Gus Engstrom, a Hobart realtor. A model of a covered bridge was built by Nick Oresik of Glen Park and presented to Wallace Riley. Attached to the model was a box where donations could be made to the bridge project. The model was displayed throughout the city. Disappointment struck when the covered bridge model was stolen. However, in November, 1975, the bridge was found and returned by a young man named Keith Edmond. The bridge was broken and had to be repaired,but was soon on display again.

The project of a canoe launching site and a park was taken by Troop 20 Boy Scouts, under the leadership of Casimer Rosiecki. In February of 1976, the commission voted to pay for the granite plaques to be installed on the monument at the new park. The name of Independence Park was suggested by Julie Kallok of River Forest Junior High School. This was very appropriate,since Independence was the name chosen by the bicentennial committee when it was asked to select a new name for the city, to be put on a petition. Independence Park was dedicated May 31, 1976.

Information for the time capsule is still being collected by members of the bicentennial committee. This project is scheduled for completion at the end of this bicentennial year.

Although a city-wide Thanksgiving service had to be abandoned, a new effort to have a city-wide prayer service is under way. Don McCauley, who is on the commission as a representative of the East Gary Chamber of Commerce, has volunteered the Chamber to organize a prayer service yet this year.

During the past year, more citizens have become members of the bicentennial commission. Present members besides those already mentioned are Mrs.Jo Ellen Breese, Mr. & Mrs. Robert O. Johnson, Cliff Tabor, Pat Williams, Ed Laco and Bill Eaton who are official bicentennial photographers, Warren Lewis from the F.O.P. and Mr. James Belshaw who was named as the committee's official artist. Mr. Belshaw has donated several paintings to be raffled off to earn money for the lasting memorial.

It is because of these people I have mentioned that East Gary has earned the reputation of being the most bicentennial minded community in the area.

Several groups in the city have been especially generous in helping the commission. The East Gary Chamber of Commerce donated $1,000.00 to the committee and The East Gary Lions followed this with a donation of $1,2000.00. The East Gary Fire Department Auxiliary presented the commission with a check for $300.00. This money was raised through the selling of jewelry, and we all recognize the work that this took.

The East Gary Revolution Bicentennial Commission would like to take this opportunity to salute all of the school children who cared enough about their country to become involved in the great variety of bicentennial projects that they have during the past year.

THE EAST GARY AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION 1975 FOURTH OF JULY FLOAT

(Picture courtesy of the Herald Newspapers)

FUTURE

If a person were to look he would see many plans for East Gary's future. A new school is being built, an old school is being renovated to be used as a multi-purpose community building, a new army reserve station will be built and maybe East Gary will change its name.

East Gary's new Edison Junior-Senior High School will be started this summer and completed by the 1977-78 school year. This new building will be the culmination of many years of hard work by many people.

Goldie L. King Elementary School, formerly known as Columbus School, was burned by vandals in 1973. Because it was an old building, the School City of East Gary decided that it would be too expensive to repair and instead spent the money for the new addition to Hamilton Elementary School. The school city then offered to sell the old school building to the city for one dollar, which it did.

Today plans are underway to turn the building into a multi-purpose community building, with a nutritional facility for senior citizens and a meeting place for organizations. Mayor Jacobs is trying to procure federal funds for this project and he is confident that these funds will be forthcoming.

A new army reserve center will be built in East Gary sometime in the coming year. Land, north of the airport, has been donated for this project. The reserve center will have a 400 man unit. There will be no troops living at the center, only men coming in for two hour drills, four hour drills or weekend drills. One advantage of having the center is that the men can receive training and at the same time do actual work to improve our community.

East Gary is also in the process of trying to annex most of the remaining Hobart Township area. This includes the Nob Hill and Viking Village areas. There is opposition to the annexation and only time will tell what the outcome will be.

A present issue in the city is whether or not to change the name of the city. There are those who feel, for sentimental reasons, that the name should stay the same. The people who are in favor of the name change feel that it is imperative to the very life of the city to establish an identity all its own.

A petition favoring changing the name to Independence, containing more than the required five hundred signatures will be presented to the city council on June 3, 1976. There are other petitions being circulated in the city favoring other names, but as of yet none of them have the required five hundred signatures. People who favor the name change feel that the issue has changed in the last few years from whether or not to change the name to what should the name be.

Mayor Jacobs summed up the feelings on the name change at a recent Jaycee Installation banquet when he said, "we should take steps to insure our future because we and our children will have to live in it."

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In doing research for this book I have sometimes found it difficult to substantiate all the facts, since everyone remembers things a little differently.

If there are mistakes, they are not intentional as this is the most accurate history I could write with the information I was able to collect and verify at this time.

Susan Christenson
Editor

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This history of East Gary would not have been possible without the help of many people. I would like at this time to mention these people briefly.

Having this historical book was originally the idea of the East Gary American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. They have backed the entire project from start to finish and have financed the whole project.

Although Mrs. Janice Sherman was unable to finish this project as she would have liked, this book would not have ever been completed without her initial work in organizing the layout and gathering information.

All of the pictures in this book were done through the courtesy of Mrs. William (Kathy) Sonntag, who took on quite a task of reproducing some very old pictures. For all of her hours of hard work and expense I am very grateful. Mrs. Sonntag is also responsible for the research on the personalities section of the history.

I would also like to thank Ed Laco who provided the picture of Independence Park, which was used on the cover.

I have talked to many, many people in the city who have provided me with pictures and information for this book, they are as follows: Miss. Hattie Papka, Miss. Helen Papka, Miss. Hazel Papka, Mrs. Elna Papka, Mrs. Ingred Curtiss, Mrs. Melvin Anderson, Mrs. W. H. Meier, Mrs. Connie Courtney, from East Gary City Schools and all the schools that were called, all the churches that were contacted, all the organizations that sent in histories and the city administration. Everyone was a great help.

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These are the people who really made this history book.

Susan Christenson
Editor

MONUMENT AT INDEPENDENCE PARK-PLAQUES DONATED BY THE EAST GARY AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION (Picture by Ed Laco)

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